



**Kate Belinis - Chief Executive of Herts CDA**

Since transferring from the private sector in 1998, my career path has been in the development of communities of interest, which I feel privileged to be a volunteer with the following entities:

- Aspect Advisory Group; (substance misuse project)
- Caribbean Women Equality & Diversity Forum;
- Digswell Arts Trust;
- Hertfordshire Community Foundation;
- Hertfordshire Community Meals;
- Hertfordshire Young Homeless Group;
- Herts BME Partnership
- Kingshill Infant School;
- MENTER;
- Stevenage Women's Resource Centre;
- Stevenage World Forum

I have provided leadership and my democratic management style has been of value and trusted with my employers and staff. I have worked in the Criminal Justice System: Victim Support Hertfordshire (including introduction of the Witness Service in all Magistrates and Crown Courts; MAPPP – Multi Agency Public Protection Programme and member of Criminal Justice Board) and Creative And Support Trust, together with programmes dealing with Social Enterprise and Training; Investing in Communities and Community Development with “difficult to engage” groups e.g. Gypsy, Roma and Travellers, BME etc.

I have worked across sectors: young people; homelessness; rural communities; social enterprises, equality and diversity forums, infrastructure support activities, developing and delivering training programmes, grant giving and support. I have managed and delivered ESF programmes – current EEDA's Community Grant delivery in Bedford for BME women “Women making a Difference”. I have chaired several county wide forum successfully.

I have been undertaken significant training through my employment with Tesco plc e.g. mainly 360 degree management; negotiation skills; and since working in the social sector: post diploma in management, marketing and finance and numerous other inter-personal skills which has enabled me to interact with people at all levels from service users to CEOs and Officers in Local Government; County and Local Councillors, volunteer led and incorporated community groups. I am familiar and comfortable dealing with processes to adhere to quality assurance and have a natural flair for strategic “helicopter” vision to ensure integration and cohesive service provision. The “bigger picture” is one of my motivational drivers but the biggest driver is to deliver inclusive and accessible services for people and their communities.

## **Nick Webb – Chief Executive of Pro Action**

I have two years experience with Pro-Action but have for a number of years been involved in volunteering in the community and I'm currently actively involved in both a local Scout group and youth football team. Before being involved with the start-up of Pro-Action I had run my own travel and leisure business for 10 years before selling it in Aug 2007.

My current role as head of Pro-Action immediately catapulted me into the higher tiers of the Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership where I quickly learnt that the strategic levels and plans of the HCTP & its Children and Young People's Plan differ little from the strategy and business plans of the private sector although the terminology and acronyms took a little longer to understand!

I have experience of dealing with the CEO's of three national youth charities, NCVYS, CYP and UK Youth, and at county level with CEO's of the major voluntary organisations within Hertfordshire, both specialist children & young people organisations and more generalist infrastructure groups. Currently I am working closely with senior statutory members of Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership on the VCS engage Action Plan & strategy group; including the Head of the Children & Young Peoples Commissioning team, Head of Children's Partnerships and the VCS Engage Regional Development Manager as well as a close working relationship with the Head of Youth Connexions.

The emergence of the Hertfordshire Community Assembly and the development of this MPC opportunity and the Chair of the C&YP forum are all milestones in a new way of working and engagement within the VCS which I believe will enhance and improve the understanding and transparency in the selection and accountability of those who represent the sector. It will allow a clear line of communication to and from the sector to local government and adds a level of responsibility to those selected to act for the sector and to provide information in a timely and concise way.

What I aim to offer as a candidate for Making a Positive Contribution Lead is a fair and impartial voice, ensuring a balanced understanding of the voluntary sector when needed, but ensuring above all that the care and provision of Children and Young People is paramount and that the strategic planning of the HCTP and its C&YP plan are implemented.

I believe the success of both establishing a youth charity and my own previous business success not only demonstrates a record of successful performance but also the self-motivated initiative necessary to work independently and successfully at a high level in two contrasting sectors; some of my skill sets I have summarised below;

- Experience of presenting to conferences, chairing meetings and working with trustee boards, feeling at ease dealing with a wide range of people from a variety of backgrounds.
- I offer all round business skills and am a qualified Prince2 project manager.
- A current knowledge of young people's issues and associated developing government policy

- An ability to put into plain English some of the jargon of the statutory sector so that all can understand.

I believe that this role will necessitate a need to be open and to share information in a clear and appropriate way and that the privilege of the position brings with it a high level of responsibility by the person chosen; to the Children and Young People that the lead role covers as well as to colleagues in the HCTP and in particular to the voluntary and community sector.

### **Phil Willerton – Chief Executive of Watford YMCA**

Age 60, educated to degree level, JNC Qualified Youth Worker, Chief Executive of Watford and District YMCA since 1990 having worked in various posts for the YMCA since 1972. I am Married with 4 Children and 7 Grandchildren.

During my employment with Watford YMCA it has become the largest young people orientated Voluntary Sector organisation in the County, reaching a turnover of £5.5 million, running two County Wide Programmes and with Centres in Watford, Abbots Langley and St. Albans plus 2 Children's Centres in Watford, employing 180 staff in total.

Within the context of this resource the YMCA Board have been keen to see the YMCA (and in particular the CEO) work with the wider County Voluntary Sector and where necessary to help facilitate developments which benefit both the community and the sector itself. In this respect I helped set up Herts. Young Homeless Group, chairing it for nine years, helped develop the Compact in the County and in Watford, chaired HCVYS for 12 years until it evolved into Pro-Action, represented the Voluntary Sector on the Learning and Skills Council and am a Board Member of Watford CVS. In addition at a Regional level I helped found COVER and am currently Treasurer, am Vice-Chair of VYSER (Voluntary Youth Services Eastern Region) and was also Vice - Chair of NCVYS (National Council of Voluntary Youth Services) for seven years.

With the advent of CSF and the development of the Children's Trust approach, I have been involved from the outset being invited to join the Connexions Board when Connexions was created, helping to set up and then Chair the Watford District Children's Trust Partnership and representing the DCTP Chairs on the Safeguarding Children Board and Youth Connexions Board. I am a member of the Strategic Stakeholders Group of the Children's Trust; represent the Outcome Lead on the Think Families Project Group and am a member of the multi-agency task group currently writing the Children & Young Peoples Plan for 2011 -2013.

Over all I am motivated by the belief that the voluntary sector is strongest when we all work together and have a common purpose but with differing interests and expertise which should allow us to collaborate rather than to compete. I am a strong strategic thinker, supporter of equality and consultation and am used to reporting back and sharing progress from the various bodies I attend. I have the advantage of being familiar with and 'speaking the language' of the Children's Trust at the highest level and have developed a degree of credibility over the years. At this crucial point of the

development of the County Voluntary Sector infrastructure, I believe that I am the 'safe pair of hands' required at this point in order establishing our right to have a seat at the top table on the basis of what we already contribute and our potential to contribute more in the future. Having done this I will be happy to step aside as I near retirement as I believe that this is a role which will need to be constantly refreshed and an experience which should be shared across a very diverse sector.

### **William Allen – Chief Executive of Cross Herts Community Counselling**

I feel suited to this role because I offer a valuable mix of experience and neutrality, that I feel would be crucial to supporting the voluntary sector in making a more visible and comprehensive contribution to championing young people.

#### **I have broad experience of working in the voluntary sector**

As well as running grassroots charities and projects for many years, I have spent the past three years managing county-wide consortia of voluntary organisations undertaking contracts on behalf of the public sector. I therefore, have a sound understanding of both the day-to-day pressures on small charities and the support they often need and the strategic relationship the sector has with the public sector.

#### **I believe in empowering young people to improve their own lives**

Much of my career has focussed on championing the cause of disadvantaged young people to overcome barriers to making a positive contribution:

- At Cross Herts Community Counselling (CHeCC) I oversee the charity-sector provision of counselling for troubled young people in Hertfordshire
- At HCC and in other charity roles I have worked with young people out of education or excluded from school to help them back on track, including working in partnership with YOT and Youth Connexions.
- At Paradise Furniture and Training in Hemel Hempstead, I established a vocational training and motivation project for young offenders

#### **I have an in-depth knowledge of Hertfordshire**

I have worked for both CSF and the voluntary sector in Herts at an operational level. I also have experience of working at a County-wide strategic level and working closely with and reporting to commissioners. I have represented the voluntary sector on Herts Childrens Trust Partnership (HCTP) and several District CTPs. I am also a strong supporter of the Herts Community Assembly.

Through these various roles I have an in-depth knowledge of County and district strategies and targets, understand voluntary sector networks and the complexity of HCC structures and know people in both settings (ranging from County councillors to key local authority officials and charity CEOs). Knowing how both sectors' perspectives and their work at operation and strategic levels makes me well-placed to take forward successful joint working.

#### **I am neutral and intent on representation rather than leadership**

I currently work under the Healthy strand of ECM and so, I can be completely neutral in representing the sector under the MPC strand, as my current organisation does not stand to benefit from commissioning through this role.

This neutrality is all the stronger as CHeCC is a small, narrowly-focussed organisation that does not already have representation at senior levels of the HCTP. My freshness at this level of working means I do not come with established relationships and embedded ways of thinking. This means that through the close guidance of my peers in the sector and regular consultation, I can be truly accountable to projects working at the grassroots.

*Kevin Garrod, April 2010*