



# VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR REFERENCE GROUP ELECTION

## The Candidates


Anne Hastings  
Alice Singleton  
Barbara Bland  
David Lane  
David Williams  
Deb Jones  
Jenny Mahimbo  
Nasheima Sheikh

<b>NAME:</b> Anne Hastings	
<b>ROLE/ORGANISATION:</b> CEO, Age UK Solihull	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> The Priory, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3LF	
<b>THEMATIC AREAS:</b> Healthy Communities, Prosperous Communities, Stronger Communities, Safeguarding.	
<b>EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:</b> 21 years experience of delivering services to older people in Coventry and Solihull.	
<b>PERSONAL STATEMENT:</b> I have worked in the voluntary sector for over 21 years, firstly for Victim Support in Coventry, before moving to age Concern in Solihull in 1999. I am passionate about the work of the voluntary sector in Solihull and in particular the continued and vital input of volunteers to our work which brings about such added value to all that we do. I believe that the work of the Voluntary and Community sector in Solihull shows a wonderful diversity and both supplements the work of the statutory services and also complements it through new approaches and techniques and the specialist expertise which is so important to our clients groups, particularly those hard to reach groups. By working together we can use of strengths to help transform services in our demographically diverse borough.	

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<b>NAME:</b> Alice Singleton	
<b>ROLE/ORGANISATION:</b> Advice Service Manager, DIAL Solihull	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 67 The Parade, Kingshurst, Solihull, B37 6BB	
<b>THEMATIC AREAS:</b> Healthy Communities, Prosperous Communities, Safeguarding.	
<b>EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:</b> <p>I have been Manager at D.I.A.L for almost 2 years. During that time I have been heavily involved in Personalisation for disabled people both at strategic level and directly with clients. I attend Physical &amp; Sensory board meetings and always attend Care Development Committee meetings. I am also a founder member of S.A.S.S.I. (Solihull Autistic Spectrum Support &amp; Information) and I am currently Vice Chair. I am parent to a child with Autism and learning difficulties. I am always keen to improve my skills and have recently attended VOICE and facilitator training.</p>	
<b>PERSONAL STATEMENT:</b> <p>I led a varied and successful work life before finding my true vocation. My son was diagnosed with autism at age 2 and I have had extensive contact with the voluntary and community sector since. I have been involved in voluntary parent support groups for 12 years. I am passionate about ensuring disabled people achieve their potential across all aspects of their life. I am very knowledgeable about the voluntary and community sector in Solihull. My experience prior to DIAL was mainly with children's services. However, I have spent the last 2 years developing a huge network of voluntary &amp; community sector contacts. I regularly prepare reports and chair meetings using the skills acquired both in my role at DIAL and in my voluntary position at SASSI. I am very knowledgeable on the subject of disability, having represented 13 people this year at Tribunal. All of these appeals have been successful with the clients having various disabilities including visual impairment, heart failure, autism and arthritis.</p>	

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<b>NAME:</b> Barbara Bland	
<b>ROLE/ORGANISATION:</b> Assistant Director, KIDS	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> St Georges Community Hub, Great Hampton Row, Birmingham, B19 3JG.	
<b>THEMATIC AREAS:</b> Children & Young People, Prosperous Communities, Stronger Communities, Safeguarding.	
<p><b>EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:</b></p> <p>NVQ Level 4 in Leadership &amp; Management, Disability &amp; Inclusion Training, Safeguarding Training, Makaton /Communication Training, Personal experience of living and caring for Severe Learning Disability, 10 years plus experience working in the field of voluntary sector, 20 years experience of working in the field of disability.</p> <p>I have been a Parent Governor at a Special School. I have also held the office of Vice Chair of Governors. I have lobbied and been part of a Health Working Party for Solihull Crae Trust for improved health care in specialist settings for disabled children and young people with profound and multiple health needs including School Nursing, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.</p> <p>I line manage family support and inclusion teams in areas of social deprivation, with multi-cultural and hard to reach populations.</p>	
<p><b>PERSONAL STATEMENT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have worked for KIDS West Midlands since 2001.</li> <li>• I have been a senior officer for KIDS working closely with the Regional Director and senior leadership colleagues across West Midlands region.</li> <li>• I am currently Assistant Director for West Midlands Region.</li> <li>• I am currently responsible for services supporting disabled children, young people and families in Warwickshire, Walsall, Birmingham and Solihull.</li> <li>• I was appointed to Services Manager (Development) in 2007. I have also been interim Acting Regional Manager 2005 and Acting Regional Director 2008.</li> <li>• I meet regularly with Local Authority Commissioning Officers and Executive Heads of Children’s Centre Clusters attending quarterly review meetings, service re-shaping and negotiating de-commissioning or re-commissioning of services.</li> <li>• I line manage staff that successfully partnership work within multiagency teams.</li> <li>• Successful partnerships to date include Youth Services, Connexions, Extended School Clusters, Barnados, Spurgeons and ACH.</li> <li>• I have 10 years experience working within the voluntary and community sector.</li> <li>• I engage with statutory, voluntary and community partners on a daily basis.</li> <li>• I have project managed new services engaging with local communities to enhance their participation.</li> <li>• I line manage family support and inclusion teams in areas of social deprivation, disadvantage, with multi-cultural and hard to reach populations.</li> <li>• I have been a Parent Governor at a Special School. I have also held the office of Vice Chair of Governors. I have lobbied and been part of a Health Working Party for Solihull Care Trust for improved health care in specialist settings for disabled children and young people with</li> </ul>	


profound and multiple health needs including School Nursing, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.

- I have fundraised for Reynolds Cross PTA.
- I have set up a successful Swim Club.
- I am on the Management Committee of a parent lead group who set up the Saturday Time Out Club for disabled young people in Solihull and fundraise for it's sustainability.
- I am a member of Solihull Special Olympic Committee who provide sporting opportunities for disabled children and young people, who are part of Special Olympics Great Britain.
- I am the parent and principal carer of a disabled young person.

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<b>NAME:</b> David Lane	
<b>ROLE/ORGANISATION:</b> MD, Development in Social Enterprise	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 18 Buckden Close, Chelmsley Wood, Solihull, B37 5JW	
<b>THEMATIC AREAS:</b> Prosperous Communities, Stronger Communities	
<p><b>EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:</b></p> <p>I am a SFEDI [Gold] qualified business adviser with social enterprise as a speciality area and hold a degree in Voluntary and Community Organisation Development which covers all aspects of managing and developing a voluntary organisation or charity.</p> <p>I have spent over 20 years working at a senior level within the not for personal profit sector, 15 within a medium sized Community Development Trust and 5 in social enterprise / infrastructure support.</p> <p>I have operated at strategic and operational levels for the past 10 years including leading significant infrastructure support projects for example Birmingham ChangeUp Consortium, the Birmingham Local Development Agencies, Local authority plans and LAA agreements, Digital Birmingham etc.</p> <p>I have varied and valuable experience working with specific clients groups who are marginalized running extensive employment training programmes [New Deal and Intermediate Labour Market] and alternative education services for young people who are NEET] which supported over 300 long term unemployed young people per year.</p> <p>I have extensive knowledge of safeguarding, data protection and freedom of information and have held the responsibility of Designated Senior Manager in child protection cases, attending case reviews and undertaking CP investigations.</p> <p>I currently run a social enterprise which provides bespoke enterprise support for third sector organisations and individuals who are interested in the social enterprise business model and in the past have run a printing enterprise servicing third sector groups, schools and local businesses.</p>	
<p><b>PERSONAL STATEMENT:</b></p> <p>I am a well-qualified and experienced individual that works within and has a passion for the voluntary sector. Having worked in the sector for over 20 years I know the sector has the power to transform people's lives with very little resources, but a drive and determination to make a difference.</p> <p>This experience means that I understand the everyday struggles, needs and achievements of voluntary organisations and I aim to put this experience to good use to support the development of the sector within Solihull so that it gets the support it deserves.</p> <p>In my 20 years I have worked as a volunteer at the front line [and still do], within senior management and within strategic forums and have led on many initiatives to ensure the sector is represented and supported to continue with its vital work in the heart of our communities.</p> <p>I am a resident of Solihull [North] and run a social enterprise based within Solihull providing essential support for new, emerging and growing groups who can make a difference.</p> <p>I have drive, energy and determination and will work hard to put the sector at the forefront within the strategic context.</p>	


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<b>NAME:</b> David Williams	
<b>ROLE/ORGANISATION:</b> Manager, Solihull Shopmobility	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 19 Drury Lane, Solihull, B91 3BB	
<b>THEMATIC AREAS:</b> Healthy Communities, Prosperous Communities, Stronger Communities.	
<p><b>EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:</b></p> <p>For the last 3 years I have been manager of Solihull Shopmobility. This is a well established local charity that serves hundreds of people with mobility problems wanting to come to the town centre. Since May 2011 it has also been operational in Chelmsley Wood shopping centre.</p> <p>Solihull Shopmobility successfully straddles the boundaries between the Voluntary Sector, the local authority and private business. Most of the staff are Council employees and the town centre premises are given to the Charity by the two main shopping centres.</p>	
<p><b>PERSONAL STATEMENT:</b></p> <p>I bring to this role experience in several walks of life:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Twenty years as an accountant in the private sector – including a lengthy stint as a pension fund accountant in Shirley</li> <li>2) Eight years as a Birmingham city councillor between 1995 and 2003</li> <li>3) Four years as a development worker with the Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) – as part of the Birmingham Community Empowerment Network (b:cen). This involved the development of networks of community groups and voluntary organisations across the city, organising training courses and administering grant aid programmes.</li> <li>4) Three successful years as manager of Solihull Shopmobility. Shopmobility is now based in Chelmsley Wood as well as Solihull town centre and has plans to also open in the new Shirley shopping centre</li> <li>5) Involvement in Solihull Enable and DIAL.</li> </ol>	


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<b>NAME:</b> Deb Jones	
<b>ROLE/ORGANISATION:</b> Childrens Manager, Solihull Life Opportunities	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> St Andrews Centre, Pike Drive, Chelmsley Wood, B37 7US	
<b>THEMATIC AREAS:</b> Children & Young People, Healthy Communities, Stronger Communities, Safeguarding	
<p><b>EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:</b></p> <p>As Children’s Manager @ Solihull Life Opportunities my role involves leading the Children’s Project Managers &amp; the larger team, business planning, and strategic work including liaison with Trustee Board, SMBC and other bodies.</p> <p>I am also a member of Young Solihull Management Committee and was a representative on the Disabled Children and Young Peoples Strategy Group prior to it disbanding.</p> <p>I have many years of senior management experience in the public sector, an NVQ level 5 in Management, NVQ level 2 &amp; 3 in Learning Support, and</p> <p>have completed training relating to working with people with Learning Disabilities such as Epilepsy, Disability, and Autism Awareness, Physical Intervention, Play, and Safeguarding.</p>	
<p><b>PERSONAL STATEMENT:</b></p> <p>My management experience with SoLO, together with many years as a senior manager in the Civil Service, has given me a sound understanding of the processes and structure of public service delivery, and I have become familiar with the issues affecting community &amp; voluntary organisations.</p> <p>I have considerable experience of networking with stakeholders to achieve mutually beneficial results. In my previous role I led a group of multi -agency reps in devising procedures to safeguard vulnerable adults for which I achieved a national award. A more recent example would be negotiating a significant contract with SMBC for delivery of disabled children’s services.</p> <p>I am a member of Young Solihull Management Committee and was a representative on the Disabled Children and Young Peoples Strategy Group, and the Children’s Voluntary Sector group prior to them disbanding.</p> <p>I have created strong links with other voluntary organisations and identified where we can support each other, for instance running joint events, sharing resources, and signposting customers.</p> <p>I am accustomed to creating reports and have chaired many meetings over the years ranging in size and diversity. I am also confident in delivering presentations, and representing myself and others at all levels.</p> <p>I am passionate about ensuring the rights of people with disabilities are met, and equal opportunities in the wider sense.</p> <p>I am accomplished at interpreting legal policies and procedures, &amp; creating new internal policies in line with the Law. I feel this knowledge would be beneficial in contributing to strategic development and advocating on behalf of the community &amp; voluntary sector.</p>	

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<b>NAME:</b> Jenny Mahimbo	
<b>ROLE/ORGANISATION:</b> Programme Manager, The Childrens Society	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> The Childrens Society in Solihull, Windy Arbor School, Woodlands Way, Chelmsley Wood B37 6RN	
<b>THEMATIC AREAS:</b> Children & Young People, Healthy Communities, Prosperous Communities, Safer Communities, Safeguarding .	
<b>EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:</b> <p>I'm a qualified social worker and have 36 years experience, 20 years a manager of various children's teams in LA and voluntary sector and prior to that as a LA social worker working with the elderly, young people and the mentally ill.</p> <p>I've worked with asylum seekers, young runaways, sexually exploited young people and young people in trouble with the law, as well as managing a childrens centre in the past. I currently manage the Solihull YISP team.</p>	
<b>PERSONAL STATEMENT:</b> <p>I have many years experience of working in a variety of settings including the LA and the voluntary sector - working with asylum seekers and refugees, the BME community, in safeguarding and with children's teams, and community development. I've managed a children's centre, volunteer programmes, teams working with young runaways and sexually exploited young people and children in trouble with the law. I have 15 years of experience of writing small and large bids and would be happy to share my expertise in this. I 'm a strong believer in partnership working and have recently set up a community of practice in Coventry, designed to get agencies working with sexually exploited young people together to share expertise and good practice and to explore opportunities for partnership working and bids.</p> <p>I'm fully committed to the voluntary sector, believing it to be the vanguard of good practice at a time when there are cuts threatening our sector.</p>	

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<b>NAME:</b> Nasheima Sheikh	
<b>ROLE/ORGANISATION:</b> Assistant Chief Executive, Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> Ryland House, 44-48 Bristol St., Birmingham B5 7AA	
<b>THEMATIC AREAS:</b> Children & Young People, Healthy Communities, Safer Communities, Safeguarding.	
<b>EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:</b> <p>I have worked in the voluntary and statutory sector for 27 years in the areas of training &amp; development, community and organisation development and equality issues.</p> <p>My most recent employment has been with Birmingham &amp; Solihull Women's Aid for the past nine years. We specialise in addressing violence against women issues – my role has been to develop services and represent the organisation at a strategic level.</p> <p>I have also been a Governor of a Junior School for five years.</p>	
<b>PERSONAL STATEMENT:</b> <p>I am passionate about the role of the voluntary sector in Solihull and very conscious of the current and future economic climate that may have a profound effect on us.</p> <p>The pressure towards cutting costs and commissioning could impact heavily on voluntary groups, with the need to evidence work and develop responses to issues as diverse as personalisation, localism and payment by results.</p> <p>As the Assistant Chief Executive of BSWA, I have had experience of addressing these issues, leading on tendering, fundraising and business planning.</p> <p>I have extensive experience of strategic boards, being Vice Chair of the Domestic Violence Strategic Group, Joint Chair of Solihull Supporting People (SP) Forum and a member of Crown Prosecution Service Domestic Violence Scrutiny Panel – ensuring that the voice of women &amp; children experiencing abuse is kept central to actions and discussions.</p> <p>On the SP Forum, I shape the agenda, and organise speakers for meetings. I seek to involve members to effectively represent their views e.g. when writing letters of concern to Solihull MBC. I gained views of members and wrote the response for the strategic review of supported housing last year. Currently we are working on a response to the Housing Benefit review and developing outcomes.</p> <p>The fast shifting policy agenda facing us will present great challenges. It is important that our role is strengthened and our connection to grassroots issues valued. I would be honoured to serve our sector to ensure these challenges are faced positively and feel I have the skills and experience to represent the sector on the VCSRG.</p>	