

Children and Young People's Service - VCS Representatives

At the last meeting of the VCS Engagement Partnership and the VCS Safeguarding Partnership, it was agreed to contact everyone with regard to identifying representatives to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Children & Young People's Trust Board. Below are the results of the election process.

<u>Children & Young People's Trust Board</u>	Contact e:mail
<p><u>REPRESENTATIVE : Karen Wilson – Chief Executive – North Staffs Mind</u></p> <p>I have over 20 years experience of working in the voluntary sector, twelve of which have been for voluntary organisations in Stoke-on-Trent. I worked for Voluntary Action Stoke-on-Trent for over 7 years and have been Chief Executive of North Staffs Mind for the past 4½. My various roles whilst at VAST meant that I developed a strong understanding of the sector and the role that it fulfils in the public service delivery and community development arenas, in addition to a strong track record of collaborative/partnership working. The services that North Staffs Mind delivers to children and young people represent a significant part of our activity and leave me well positioned to understand the needs and issues of children and young people in the city and to advocate on behalf of those organisations engaged with this agenda.</p> <p>I have a number of years' experience of representing voluntary sector interests at a strategic level. At the present time I am Vice-Chair of the VCS Engagement Partnership as well as being a member of other groups including the Stoke-on-Trent Mental Health Partnership Board, PCT/VAST Advisory Group and the VSCOG (Voluntary Sector Chief Officers Group) Working Group.</p> <p>Given the degree of change and uncertainty within those environments that impact significantly on the voluntary sector going forward I think it is crucially important that the sector remain engaged with and continue to have effective representation on the Children and Young People's Trust Board. The independence of the sector is one of its key strengths and we need to retain our ability to challenge and play the role of "critical friend". I have a strong commitment to the local sector and have directly seen the significant impact that it can have on children and young people's lives and this is why I have put</p>	<p>karenwilson@nsmind.org.uk</p>

myself forward for the VCS Rep role.

Deputy : Simon Hankins – Chief Executive Officer – The Dove Service

The Dove Service has a long history of working with C&YP in the city and in the provision of support to them plus their families and carers. In recent years we have put a great deal of energy and focus on the development of services for children and for young people and currently have two major initiatives running in Stoke; one as a partner within a consortia project working in Cluster 3; the other via a significant Big Lottery award working with all 10-18 year olds in the city. We are also partners within the FIP, FSS and FSN and have worked directly with individual schools to help support the emotional needs of pupils, family and staff.

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We have a good track record of positive engagement with the SOT VCS engagement partnership, SOT and Staffordshire CAMHS and with other groups within and beyond the city and were fully engaged with the refresh of the C&YP Plan such that emotional wellbeing is now seen as one of the key issues for C&YP overall wellbeing. Therefore, we have a great deal of understanding of the emotional and mental health issues facing C&YP and the factors that affect those.

On a personal note, I am very much a strategic thinker and feel comfortable providing input at senior Board level; I have a vast range of experience in acting as a representative within the third sector having been the Chair of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Voluntary Sector Forum, represented the voluntary sector on the Newcastle-under-Lyme LSP Executive Board, I am currently a VCS representative on the Staffordshire Adult Mental Health Partnership Board and have been, and continue to be, involved in a number of strategy and other groups in Stoke and Staffordshire as well as a member of both SOT VSCOG and the Stafford Voluntary Sector Chief Officers Group.

I believe that I am well placed to understand and contribute to the functioning of the SOT Children's Trust Board and to being an effective strategic representative of the voluntary sector (that is active within SOT) at the Board.

Deputy 2 : George Tzilivakis – Mediation Services Manager – Mediation North

Staffs

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“I have worked in the Voluntary Sector in Stoke-on-Trent for nearly 20 years – 12 of those have been spent as the manager of Mediation North Staffs, which merged with North Staffs YMCA in 2009. I have represented the Voluntary Sector and lobbied on its behalf in numerous contexts. I currently chair the VCS Engagement Partnership and represent the Voluntary Sector Chief Officer’s Group at the Safer City Partnership.”

Local Safeguarding Children Board

Wendy Wainwright – Head of Domestic Violence Services – Arch North

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Staffs

I wish to stand for the position of chair of the VCS Safeguarding Group because I believe the most effective way to safeguard children and young people is to foster a constructive partnership approach that creates a culture which enables agencies to communicate issues effectively. I feel that statutory and voluntary organisations do not always understand each others’ skills, knowledge, roles, responsibilities and priorities and I see the role of chair and the group as key to raising awareness between the agencies, with the aim of providing more effective and responsive services for children who are in need and at risk of significant harm. I hold the Dip SW and a BA in Applied Social Studies; I am also the contact for Safeguarding Young People and Children within Arch. I am an accredited Practice Educator of social work students, who will work with the children we are working to protect and the agencies round the table. I feel I can bring a balanced and experienced approach to this role and I believe I will represent the group professionally and fairly.