

Biographical details

Delivering for vulnerable people in our communities

NAME David Brindle
POSITION Public Services Editor
ORGANISATION The Guardian

Biographical details:

David Brindle is public services editor of the Guardian. He has been the paper's social affairs correspondent and edited the Society section. He has won awards for his coverage of social services, disability and nursing and was awarded the Social Care Association's merit award for 2007. Previously he was labour correspondent of the Financial Times and he started his career with the Coventry Evening Telegraph. He is vice-chair of 2Care, a mental health service charity, and a trustee of the National Development Team for Inclusion. He is a visiting fellow at the Centre for Citizen Participation, Brunel University.

NAME Domini Gunn-Peim
POSITION Lead Housing Inspector
ORGANISATION Audit Commission

Biographical details:

Domini is currently the Audit Commission's Lead Housing Inspector for the North East and Yorkshire and Humberside. She has worked as a teacher, in the voluntary sector and in local government including senior management responsibility for urban regeneration and housing services. She joined the Audit Commission's Housing Inspectorate in 2000. Domini was responsible for the development and delivery of the national Supporting People Inspection Programme England, led by the Audit Commission Housing Inspectorate, in partnership with the Commission for Social Care Improvement (CSCI) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). She has had papers published in a number of journals and participated in international projects in Poland, France, Spain, Germany and Nicaragua.

NAME Sarah Guy
POSITION Social Researcher
ORGANISATION Communities and Local Government

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Sarah Guy is a social researcher who has worked in different government departments including Communities and Local Government and Defra for several years. Prior to that she worked for various homeless charities including Homeless Link. Since the start of this year she has headed up a small social research team in the Housing Care and Support Division at Communities and Local Government which leads on the Supporting People programme.

NAME	Nigel Hamilton
POSITION	Interim Head of Policy and Public Affairs
ORGANISATION	Sitra

Biographical details:

Nigel has recently been working as an independent housing consultant, having previously spent many years working in local authority housing services. He was most recently Head of Housing in Barnet, North London, where, as well as managing the strategic housing service he was a member of the SP Commissioning Board and the SP lead for the sub-regional Housing Directors Group, in which role he led a sub-regional project for improving positive move-on from supported housing. He has been involved in front line service delivery to vulnerable people throughout his career, particularly in housing needs, housing advice and homelessness services. He was instrumental in developing preventative, options-based approaches to tackling homelessness and in the introduction of choice based lettings.

NAME	Bill Hodson
POSITION	Director of Housing and Adult Social Care
ORGANISATION	York City Council

Biographical details:

Bill Hodson has worked in local government for five councils over 30 years in the fields of housing, social care and health. He spent fourteen years in London working on housing advice, homelessness and housing management. In the early 90's he moved to York and was responsible for bringing together social care and housing assessments into one system and setting up integrated services for mental health and learning disabilities with NHS trusts. He has been Director of Housing and Adult Social Services in York since 2005, is a member of the National Executive of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and co-chairs the ADASS national housing network.

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NAME	Harry Hudson
POSITION	Project Manager
ORGANISATION	Foundation Housing

Biographical details:

Harry Hudson is a Project Manager of Foundation Housing which is based in Bradford. He manages eight support workers delivering housing support to 54 customers via Supporting People, Youth Offending Team and Children's Service contracts. Foundation has 25 years experience of providing housing support and complementary services for a range of vulnerable groups in the Yorkshire and Humberside area, Lancashire, Darlington and Durham. These services are funded through the Supporting People programme across 10 Supporting People Administering Authorities, Social Services, Health, Connexions and various Trusts. Foundation delivered last year through floating support, or in accommodation, services to over 2000 vulnerable people and manage over 1,200 bedspaces of supported accommodation.

NAME	Sue Lewis
POSITION	Head of Supported Housing Services
ORGANISATION	Pennine Housing

Biographical details:

Sue joined Pennine Housing 2000 shortly after the Company came into being in 2001, following the stock transfer from Calderdale MBC. She led the Company's strategic review of its sheltered housing service in 2002 and the preparations for the emerging Supporting People. Following implementation of the review, Pennine's service for older people has been transformed, from a very traditional resident warden-based service to a community-based service. Sue continues to lead on the wider Supporting People agenda for the Company as well as representing Pennine in terms of the local strategic partnership for older people which drives the Local Area Agreement for Calderdale. She also leads the local Sheltered Providers Group and represents older people's services as an elected provider representative on Calderdale's Supporting People's Provider Forum. More recently, Sue has been working with Alison Wright, from Easy Living Homes, whose work is featured very strongly in the CLG's *National Strategy for an Ageing Society*, to champion inclusive design, both within Pennine Housing and through the development consortium group comprising other RSLs.

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NAME	Colin Robertson
POSITION	Policy Officer (Personalisation)
EMAIL	colinr@sitra.org
ORGANISATION	Sitra

Biographical details:

Responsible for advice, training and consultancy on all aspects of social care and supported housing; including finance and financial management and procedures as well as key aspects of Supporting People implementation funding and procurement, rent restructuring and other management issues pertinent to supported housing and care providers. Colin has worked for Sitra for over eight years and in the wider local government, charity and housing sector since 1975.

NAME	Peter Rush
POSITION	Supporting People Manager
ORGANISATION	Hampshire County Council

Biographical details:

Following a varied career in the Civil Service, working in data and information management, budgeting & strategic planning, as well as a number of years in a benefit office – combined with being actively involved with the running of two housing co-ops, Peter moved into working in homelessness in 1995. Firstly with the DSS Resettlement Programme, and then from 1999 with the Housing Corporation. Peter joined the Hampshire SP team on its establishment in 2001 as a local co-ordinator working commissioning new services and laying the framework for SP implementation. On the launch of SP in 2003 he became responsible for developing and delivering a Hampshire wide service review programme, and following that the strategic review process, before becoming the SP manager. Hampshire are to date the only SP team in a two tier authority to be rated 'Excellent with Excellent prospects' by the Audit Commission and have recently been invited to be an SP/LAA pathfinder project.

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NAME *Dan Short*

POSITION

ORGANISATION **CSED**

Biographical details:

Dan Short formerly worked for the NHS, the Audit Commission and CIPFA and is an experienced consultant in the field of Health and Social Care. Since June 2008 he has jointly led CSED's work on Support Related Housing and Integrated Care and Support Pathway Planning with his colleague Rob Griffiths.

NAME **Ann Watt**

POSITION **Deputy Director in the Social Exclusion Task Force**

ORGANISATION **Cabinet Office**

Biographical details:

Ann Watt is a Deputy Director in the Social Exclusion Task Force in the Cabinet Office. Ann's team is responsible for the new cross-government Public Service Agreement on socially excluded adults (PSA16). Working with six other government departments, Ann's team are seeking to increase the employment and settled accommodation rates of vulnerable adults, including care leavers, ex-offenders, people in contact with secondary mental health services, and people with moderate to severe learning disabilities. In her previous role, Ann worked in the Home Office setting up the new youth volunteering charity v, which has the ambition of involving one million more young people in volunteering within five years. Before this, Ann worked for ten years in HM Treasury where most recently she was involved in writing the Government's ten year strategy for childcare. Before this she had experience in a wide range of areas with a focus on social policy and public service delivery. These included neighbourhood renewal, urban policy and the funding arrangements for the Good Friday Agreement reforms in Northern Ireland.

Box of Frogs

Box of Frogs specialise in helping people shape the services they receive through creative conversations, art and drama. They ensure that organisations are delivering the most efficient, effective and appropriate services to the communities that they serve. They have worked for local authorities, Primary Care Trusts and third sector organisations across the North West of England and beyond.

Working with Bolton Supporting People for over four years, Box of Frogs have established and still run the successful Community Experts Panel

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(CEP) which is made up of people who use SP funded services in the area. As part of this work in Bolton, they have developed a drama project based on the thoughts and experiences of people from the CEP and performed by members of the group. The performance has been used at regional conferences and with other groups of service users to stimulate discussion and debate around housing related support and services.