

Salford CVS Annual Conference 2023 Workshop Biographies

Morning workshops

Beyond Sight and Sound

Understanding the barriers faced by people with sensory impairments and identifying best practice for inclusion.

Room: Press Lounge

Speakers:

Terri Balon, RNIB

Terri Balon is the RNIB Regional Campaigns Officer Northwest and lives in Leigh, Lancashire. Terri is privileged to have a role she's passionate about, which involves working with blind and partially sighted people, communities, organisations and statutory bodies locally, regionally and nationally to improve access and accessibility. She is a two-way conduit between national and local work, working collaboratively with others in breaking down barriers. Terri's vision is a world where there are no barriers to participation and people's involvement in society is equitable, design for anyone, better for everyone. Terri has been a trustee of several charities, a challenging and rewarding role, including being the Chair of Disabled Parents Network a small but national organisation that made a real difference to parents who were disabled.

Philip Bridge, Salford d/Deaf Community Gathering

Philip Bridge is profoundly deaf, a British sign language user and also uses some lipreading. He is currently Chairman at Salford d/Deaf Community Gathering which supports D/deaf people.

David Haughton, RNID

The RNID has a proud history and big ambitions. From collaborating on the first cochlear implant developed in the UK, to campaigning for the Government's first BSL Act in 2022, they've worked with communities for over one hundred years – and changed the lives of millions.

The RNID have been helping people with hearing loss for more than 100 years, and changed the lives of millions since they started. Their key achievements include successfully lobbying the NHS to provide free hearing aids in 1948 and hearing-screening for newborn babies in 2000. They've also been involved in life-changing research and have become one of the UK's leading specialist-care providers for people affected by hearing loss.

Values are at the heart of RNID. They guide how the RNID work and communicate, internally and externally. They help them make the biggest impact in the best way possible, meaning that they can always be proud to be themselves. The RNID values – Connected, Passionate, Insightful, and Curious.

Physical Barriers

Facing the challenges and finding the solutions for inclusion.

Room: Willows Suite

Speakers:

Ben Andrews, Beyond Empower

Ben Andrews is the Managing Director of Beyond Empower, a Community Interest Company helping places #DoItDifferently to support healthy, active lives for disabled people. Ben's passion for this area comes from his own personal experience of being registered blind; having an hereditary, degenerate visual impairment, Retinitis Pigmentosa. Ben's work with adults let him to think about the need to get the message of inclusion and access out to people at a much earlier age. He wrote his own series of published children's picture books, reaching 1000s of children (and adults) with messages of access and inclusion. Ben's hope is that these books will help children to take this learning into adulthood to avoid the many issues created today.

David Keane, BASIC

David is the Chief Enabling Officer (CEO) at the Brain and Spinal Injury Centre (BASIC) proudly based in Eccles, Salford and has been in the role for two years this month. He qualified in Law and specialised in Business and Commercial Law working in the private and public sectors before taking on his first voluntary sector employment in 2021.

David has held a number of senior executive and non-executive roles cross-sector over the last twenty years and finds his work

and volunteering in the charity sector to be the most rewarding and fulfilling in his career so far. David has worked with the CVS, Salford Council, NHS and partner charities to launch a fully accessible electric powered fleet of vehicles in Salford over the last year.

David is a Manchester lad and knows that the power of partnership and collaboration between the ordinary decent folk of Salford can change lives. When he's not working, David spends most of his time with his young daughter adventuring and exploring new places, enjoying many activities from hiking to kayaking to snow sports and dance.

Karen Mercer, Being There

Karen Mercer is Chief Executive of Being There. She qualified as an educationalist before working for a number of voluntary and statutory organisations in the UK and overseas. She devised and delivered the education and community service at Hat Works Museum in Stockport before moving into marketing and fundraising for various arts organisations in the North West.

Karen joined Being There as Marketing & Fundraising Manager, becoming Communications and Development Manager and then Operations Manager. In 2017 Karen was appointed General Manager and then to Chief Executive in 2020.

Unlocking Potential

Understanding and overcoming challenges faced by people with learning difficulties.

Room: Irlam Suite

Speakers:

Leigh Matts, Princes Park Garden Centre

Leigh Matts is the Operational Day Services Manager at Princes Park Garden Centre. She started out from college on a very different path, she was a member of cabin crew and employed within the travel industry for around 7 years. After having her children, Leigh started as an administrator in the pastoral department at a local school, the role grew and she became a CAF champion for Salford, delivering CAF training to professionals from various sectors, alongside her role within school. Leigh then worked as a SEN TA3 in a local school with an assigned young adult, whilst also undertaking an assistant head of house role in the same school, leading on to become a pastoral Head of year at a school in Atherton.

Leigh joined Princes Park Garden Centre in 2020 as a support worker for adults with Learning Disabilities, whilst being responsible for the retail section of the Garden Centre. She has recently secured the newly created role of Operational Day Services Manager, overseeing all areas of the site and services on offer. Leigh's aim within this role is to identify areas for improvement across all sections of the service and drive positive changes, for the benefit of all stakeholders of Princes Park Garden Centre.

Sharon Marsden, Aspire

Sharon Marsden is the Autism Lead for Aspire Care and Support In Salford. She started her caring career by completing a pre-nursing course and then went on to residential care for the elderly. Sharon's interest was with people with Disabilities and in 1986 she started work with Salford City Council, working in various roles within the Learning Disability service. In 2015 Aspire 'spun' out of the Council and became a Community Interest Company.

Sharon's current role enables her to work with a wide range of services, both with internal and external agencies such as private providers, commissioners, other health professionals, and family members and carers. Her role includes offering advice and guidance for those who either support, care or work with an autistic person as well as delivering training to ensure services and staff meet set standards of care and follow legislation. Sharon has assisted in the creation of several support groups for either carers or autistic people. She is the lead in supporting Day Opportunities and Supported Living in the Autism accreditation process which Aspire have held since 2008.

This year, Sharon was lucky enough to be accepted to sit on the National Autistic Society appeals and beacon panel. The purpose of the panel plays an important role in quality checking the work of Accreditation and providing independent scrutiny and carries out the following rules: - Appeals - to decide whether the organisation upholds appeals against Committee decisions, Moderation -to moderate a sample of Committee decisions where no appeal has been lodged, Beacon status - to consider applications for Beacon Status. This is a great opportunity to network with a wider community of professionals and people with autism, their services and knowledge.

Anne-Marie Mather, Aspire

Ann-Marie Mather is the Head of Service for Learning disabilities at Aspire. Ann-Marie started her caring career with Learning Disability roles with Salford City Council as a Care Assistant, Day Centre Officer, and Person-centred planning worker within the Learning Disability service. In 2015 as part of Salford social services provider changes, Aspire 'spun' out of the Council becoming a

Community Interest Company.

All of Ann-Marie's previous roles have given her a vast range of experience and opportunities that have supported her career progression and now her current role as head of disability services in Aspire enables her to provide leadership and development in day and respite services.

Ann-Marie has gained skills over the years in mentoring offering motivation, direction, advice, and coaching skills to support others with development, training and learning new skills. She has good professional values and has demonstrated a good work ethic, reliability, resilience, patience, and adaptability and mix this with my leadership skills, team working, problem solving and communication skills – this has supported her to have many achievements and opportunities throughout her career.

Ann-Marie has a real interest in project management and developing new opportunities for people, and she also has a passion for supporting people to have a voice and make choices that are right for themselves and developing opportunities for people to live their lives to their full potential.

Hermine Briffa, Wheels for All

Hermine Briffa works with Wheels for All. She moved to Salford to be with her family. Hermine became involved with spreading the importance of access to cycling for people with disabilities and differing needs in the UK.

Hermine previously worked for a charity for deaf and deaf/blind people in Dorking, Surrey.

Embracing Neurodiversity

Understanding the challenges, benefits and best practice on how to include neurodiverse people.

Room: Barton Suite

Speakers:

Dr Tony Lloyd, ADHD Foundation and Neurodiversity Charity

Janet Taylor, Salford Disability Forum

Janet is Dyspraxic, but is not a dyspraxia sufferer. She is co Editor of the Ebook 'Dyspraxic Adults Surviving in a Non Dyspraxic World' Available on Amazon. She is hoping to update this.

In October 2000, after experiencing discrimination in the workplace and Medical Retirement. Janet Set up the Dyspraxia Adult Support Group in Manchester. She has been an Adult Advisor for The Dyspraxia Foundation and is now a Member of Their Adult Advisory Panel. She also raises awareness of Dyspraxia and Neurodiversity and has since passed on her community development skills to other group members when she returned back into paid work.

Although Janet struggled academically at school. She undertaken training from Salford CVS Introduction to Community and Youth Work, The University of Manchester Diploma in Community and Youthwork, MA in Community Studies, PGCE in Further and Higher Education at the University of Bolton and MA in Inclusive Education and Special Educational Needs at MMU.

She has worked as a Travel Trainer for People with Enduring Mental Health Issues, A self Advocacy group for People with Learning Difficulties, A Recovery Worker for People with Enduring Mental Health Issues. Her last paid job was for Salford CVS as their Disability Development Worker with a fixed term contract.

While she was working there she discovered that she had Breast Cancer which has now developed to the advanced stage. Rather than feeling sorry for herself, she is setting up CFocus Salford with Salford Disability Forum & Macmillan. And is a CVS Answer Cancer Champion.

Chris Dabbs, Unlimited Potential

Chris is Chief Executive of Unlimited Potential, a social enterprise that specialises in social and economic innovation for happiness. Unlimited Potential has run innovative projects and services for over 15 years to address some of the most challenging social and economic issues, drawing on local people's strengths.

Unlimited Potential holds the Investors in People standard and the Fair Tax Mark. It is an accredited Living Wage Employer, holds Disability Confident Leader status and is a Member of the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter. It won awards at the national Living Wage Champion Awards in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

Chris has set up, and supported local people to set up, many social enterprises. He is a Fellow of the School for Social Entrepreneurs and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Chris is an Assembly Member at the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group, the Salford Health and Wellbeing Board, Salford Social Enterprise City and Salford Social Value Alliance.

Salford CVS Annual Conference 2023 Workshops

Afternoon workshops

Exploitation and Abuse

Addressing the exploitation and the abuse of disabled people.

Room: Press Lounge

Speakers:

Barbara Bentham, Salford Unemployed Community and Resource Centre

Barbara was born and bred in Salford. She spent her early career working within the Trade Union movement for Transport and General Workers Union, (now Unite), in their Salford Regional Office legal department. She has worked in the Community and Voluntary sector for close to 20 years as Welfare Rights Appeals Officer at Salford U.C.R.C. and she has been active in the Community throughout this time. Amongst other things, she was a previous member of the Barton Fairshare panel and the Eccles Festival committee. Barbara is currently a member of the Health and Adults Scrutiny Committee, Employers Forum and a School Governor. With a solid foundation in the Salford Community and a keen interest in improving outcomes for people, Barbara was happy to be elected as a trustee this year.

Terri Balon, RNIB

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that made a real difference to parents who were disabled.

Kay Fairhurst, Salford Disability Forum

Opening Doors

Inclusive access to the public realm for disabled people.

Room: Willows Suite

Speakers:

Andrew Whitaker, The Activity Alliance

Andrew is the Strategic Partnership Advisor (North West and North East) for Activity Alliance. His role sees him work with a wide range of organisations. He loves connecting with people and supporting them to embed inclusive practice into their work. Andrew's passion stems from his own lived experiences.

Growing up, Andrew struggled to find accessible sports and activities. Now, he loves being active and has previously taken part in athletics, wheelchair sports, and archery at a regional level, and captained Lancashire Disabled Cricket Team. When he isn't at home spending time with his family, you will probably find him down at the gym or at a powerlifting competition.

Michael Tuson, Salford Community Leisure

Michael Tuson is the Strategic Policy & Partnership Lead at Salford Community Leisure. He has been working in the Sport and Leisure Industry in Salford for 15 years, joining Salford Community Leisure in 2013 as part of the School Sports Team. After various roles within the Active Communities Team, Michael is now part of the Corporate Team as Strategic Policy & Partnerships Lead, where he takes a lead on the development of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy alongside his colleague Caroline Jones, Strategic Lead for People.

Michael obtained a First-Class Honours Degree in Sports Development at University of Bolton, specialising in the legacy of major games events on community sport. He later returned to the University of Bolton and he achieved a Distinction classification in Community Development and Youth Studies, where he focused on whole systems approaches to active lives for young people.

Michael is also a qualified Youth Worker, a role which he enjoyed with Salford City Council until summer 2023. He is passionate about creating communities which work for those living within them, and he is keen to progress work in this area to develop wholly inclusive services for Salford people.

Jessica Rani Pathak, Salford City Council

Jessica Rani Pathak began working for Salford City Council as Equality Diversity & Inclusion Lead in 2021. Born in Jamaica, the youngest of five siblings, Jessica moved to Salford when she was six months old. Apart from three years living in Chester whilst studying, Jessica has been in Salford ever since.

Jessica started her career as a youth worker in Salford and Lancashire, working as a HIV peer education worker on a young people's health project, and working with Asian girls and women. Building on personal experience of being multiple heritage, Jessica was employed to set up the first project for BAME young people in Salford for Salford Youth Service. In 1995 Jessica was involved in the Council of Europe's All Different, All Equal Campaign – a campaign against Racism, Anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance. This started her career in equalities work, which has spanned 25+ years.

Jessica has also worked for Trafford Council, Barnardo's, the NHS and Salford CVS. Jessica is passionate about equalities, supporting change and ending discrimination, especially when working alongside people to make this happen. Away from work, Jessica loves spending time with her husband, family, friends and her fabulous dog Sunny, travelling, talking, reading, and drinking tea!

Pathways to Inclusion

Enhancing access to meaningful employment for disabled people.

Room: Barton Suite

Speakers:

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Jane Cordell, Result CIC

Jane Cordell is the Co-Director of Result CIC, a social enterprise supporting marginalised people with coaching and training to become 'confidently different'. Jane is an experienced teacher, trainer, coach and public speaker. Originally a professional orchestral musician, she draws positively on her lived experience of becoming profoundly deaf in her mid-20s and of subsequent exclusion and career discrimination in all her work.

Jane's career has included F.E lecturing, editing, 10 years in the British Diplomatic service, including 4 working in Poland daily using Polish language. Her leadership roles have included Chairing DaDaFest (Deaf and Disability Arts) and working as a trustee for Disability Rights UK and Manchester Deaf Centre. She was Executive Chair for Unlimited Potential, Salford and is a Board member is Chair of the Arts Marketing Association (AMA). She has twice been named in the Power 100 list of the UK's most influential Disabled People and received an honorary fellowship from Liverpool John Moores University in 2018 for her work on disability rights.

Tanina Sheath, The Growth Company

Intersectionality

Navigating the impact of multiple identities in life.

Room: Irlam Suite

Speakers:

Owen Power, Campaigner

Owen Power is a d/Deaf queer Jew with a passion for social justice, inclusion and promoting access to sexual health. He has worked for many years in London as a training manager delivering government-funded skills training to disabled people who were long term unemployed. In addition, he led a project promoting HIV awareness to people without sight.

Owen came to Salford in 2002 and has come to love the city as he feels it is home. He wears many hats including Deputy for York Liberal Jewish Community (there isn't a LJ community in Salford or Manchester). On the Board of Deputies, Owen serves on the disability, LGBTQ+ and antisemitism in the cultural space working groups. In addition, he is a member of Liberal Judaism's Board of National Officers with the Communities, communications and social justice portfolios. These roles within the Board of Deputies and Liberal Judaism provide real opportunities to promote LGBTQ+ and disability equality within Jewish communities and beyond. If that is not enough, Owen is the Jewish Labour Movement North West's LGBTQ+ officer and here at home, LGBTQ+ officer for Salford CLP. His local ward, Pendleton & Charlestown, has three great councillors, Wilson, John (the Commander!) and Michele who are strong on community activism and together they work on events such as celebrating Black History Month and National HIV Testing Week during which many councillors publicly test to help to challenge the stigma of HIV which persists. Owen is delighted to be part of the Salford CVS Annual Conference today.

Hamid Khalid, African Rainbow Family

Gemma Roberts, Bolton CVS

Gemma Roberts identifies as a physically disabled woman working in the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. After working in this sector for around 5 years, Gemma recognises the extremely important work is done to improve the lives of communities at both local and national levels. Gemma believes in community power and feels that the best way to harness the

wealth of knowledge people have, is through the amplification of voices and lived experiences. She loves to do work that is truly participatory and puts seldom-heard voices at the heart of whatever they are trying to achieve.

Gemma's previous work includes youth inclusion, creating inclusive consultation spaces, advocacy and activism, and accessibility advice for disabled people in Greater Manchester.