positive



Positive about integrated healthcare

Speaker Biographies





Professor Mike Cooke CBE

Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Mike is an experienced, innovative Chief Executive who joined Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust in June 2007. He has worked in many Trusts and NHS organisations around the country.

He has experience working at many levels within the Acute Hospital, Mental Health and Primary Care sectors. Mike is a Chief Executive who has a depth of leadership skills coupled with an exceptional track record of developments in the NHS and local public sector. Mike was a runner up in the NHS Leader of the Year 2009.

He led South Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust to be one of the first Mental Health Foundation Trusts, helped the acquisition of Shropshire Services, and the Award for NHS Foundation Trust of the Year 2006/07. He has also taken Nottinghamshire Healthcare to Foundation Trust standard and his leadership in mental health was acknowledged with a CBE in the Queen's New Year Honours in January 2011.

Mike is an Honorary Professor in Healthcare Innovation and Learning at Nottingham University Business School. He is on the National Institute for Health Research Advisory Board, Chairs the local Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC), and Chairs the Trent Clinical Local Research Network (CLRN) Board. Mike is also a member of the NHS National Provider Reference Group, he Chairs the East Midlands Leadership Academy and is a Lecturer at the Nottingham Recovery College.

Under Mike's leadership the Trust has developed a range of new services including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies across the City of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw, Offender Health services in 11 prisons and Transforming Community Services, which came into effect on 1 April 2011.



Graham Biggs MBE

Chief Executive of the Rural Service Network, FCIS

Graham Biggs is the Chief Executive of the Rural Services Network (RSN) – England's largest national membership organisation relating to services to rural communities.

Graham has been the Chief Officer/Executive of the Network since its formation in the early 2000s and of SPARSE – Rural for some five years before that.

Until 1 April 2009 Graham had been the Chief Executive of the former South Shropshire District Council – one of England's most sparsely populated districts – for over 20 years. Accordingly, he has a wealth of experience in the management and delivery of services across sparsely populated areas.

Graham is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators. He was awarded an MBE in 1995 for "Services to Local Government".

Some of the major policy and service delivery initiatives for which Graham was responsible were:

- Affordable Housing for Local People
- The Provision of Employment Sites and Managed Workspace across the District
- The Provision of Leisure Facilities across the District
- The Transfer of the Council's Housing Stock to a Community Based Registered Social Landlord
- The Establishment of a Leisure Trust
- Partnership Working between the Council, other major public service providers and Town and Parish Councils and other community bodies based on Market Towns and their Hinterlands

Graham is the Principal Advisor to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services for which the RSN provides the Secretariat.



Baroness Byford DBE

Secretary, Rural Services All Party Parliamentary Group

Hazel Byford was born in Rothley, Leicestershire where she still lives. She attended Agricultural College at Moulton, Northamptonshire specialising in poultry production before becoming a poultry stock producer for Thornbers; she is now retired. The family has an arable farm in Suffolk.

Hazel joined the WRVS County staff from 1961 to 1977; she was County Organiser from 1972 to 1976. She became Chairman of the Conservative Women's National Committee 1990 to 1993, was created a Conservative life Peer in 1996; serving as Shadow Minister for Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) 1998 to 2001 and then of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 2001 to 2008. She is a member of the European Union Select Committee D whose remit covers agriculture, fisheries, forestry and now includes energy.

Hazel is involved in many rural organisations and charities, and is a lay canon of Leicester Cathedral.

She has a granddaughter at University and two grandsons still at school. Her hobbies include golf and music.



Graham Stuart MP

Chair, Rural Services All Party Parliamentary Group

Graham was born in Carlisle in 1962, and attended Glenalmond College before reading Philosophy and then Law at Selwyn College, Cambridge from 1982-85. He started his publishing business at the end of his first year at Cambridge and he remains Non Executive Chairman.

Graham has a wide range of interests from football to economics, climate change to motorcycling, rural affairs to punk rock.

He is married to Anne, and they have two daughters: Sophie and Katie.

Graham was first elected as the MP for Beverley and Holderness in 2005. He was elected by the House of Commons to serve as Chairman of the Education Select Committee in May 2010, having served on the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee from 2007.

Graham's interest in climate change saw him join the Environmental Audit Committee from 2006 to 2010 and also sees him serving as the President of GLOBE UK in the House of Commons and the Vice President of GLOBE International. He was elected by his fellow MPs to the Conservative Party Board, on which he served from 2006 to 2010.

In January 2012 Graham launched the Rural Fair Share campaign to fight for a more equitable share of government funding for rural communities.



Professor Chris Packham

Associate Medical Director, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Chris is an Associate Medical Director at Nottinghamshire Healthcare. His duties cover medical management roles in mental health and physical health including primary care across an extensive Forensic Division. He has been a part time inner City GP in Nottingham for the last 17 years and continues in active clinical work. He is also a Consultant Public Health Physician and was previously Director of Public Health in Nottingham for 10 years up to 2011. He has recently been appointed an Honorary Professor of Public Health Practice at the University of Nottingham.



Professor Rachel Munton

Professor Rachel Munton is both Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) for Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire (NDL), and is also on secondment to the NHS Leadership Academy, as Associate for Leadership for Inclusion, from her post as Director of the East Midlands Leadership Academy.

Rachel is a Registered Mental Health Nurse and Adult Nurse, who worked as a Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN) and a CPN manager before moving into nurse education.

She has a passion for Service User/Patient Involvement, and Equality & Diversity.



Dr Julie Hall RMNDirector of Nursing and Operations,

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Julie is a mental health nurse by background, and has over 25 years experience as a clinician, academic and senior manager. She is currently employed as Director of Nursing and Operations for Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, and leads a broad portfolio of mental health, learning disability and substance misuse services.

Julie has contributed to research and health policy developments nationally and internationally, particularly focused on care pathways and how mental health care is organised. Julie co-edited the text Care Pathways for Mental Health Care with a colleague Dr David Howard. She carries the title of Queen's Nurse – demonstrating a high commitment to improving the quality of mental health care. Julie is a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Mental Health, and striving for person centred care and recovery are continuous drivers in her work and aspirations.



Chris Slavin

Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Chris Slavin is the Chief Executive of Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
(LPFT), a post he has held since April 2001.

Having undergone a rapid career progression within the NHS he has held senior level posts in Acute Trusts (where he worked for 13 years), a Community Trust (3 years) as well as Mental Health Services for the last 16 years. He has been instrumental in establishing and developing integrated health and social care mental health services across Lincolnshire and has overseen the Trust's growth and development to be one of the highest performing mental health and social care providers.

He led LPFT to the attainment of Foundation Trust status in October 2007 and passionately believes that the Foundation Trust model provides a real opportunity for true local engagement in the direction and delivery of services, in a way that meets the needs of service users and their carers and inspires the Trust's staff to deliver great care.



Dr Virgina Pearson

Director of Public Health, NHS Devon and Devon County Council

Virginia was appointed as the first Joint Director of Public Health for NHS Devon and Devon County Council, joining the organisations in January 2007. After completing her medical training at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, she worked in a number of hospital posts and became a GP Principal in Northampton. Virginia completed her public health specialist training in the South West, which included an appointment as Lecturer in Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Bristol.

Virginia worked for North and East Devon Health Authority as a Consultant in Public Health between 1995 and 1997. She then became one of the first joint directors of public health in the country, working for Somerset Health Authority and Somerset Social Services, where she was Joint Director of Public Health for three years. She was Chief Executive of South Somerset Primary Care Trust from 2002 to 2006.



Professor Sheena Asthana

Professor of Health Policy, University of Plymouth

Sheena Asthana is Professor of Health Policy at the University of Plymouth. Her research interests include resource allocation; healthcare equity; health inequalities and evidence based public health; and community-based strategies for health development (international and national).

She is the co-author of What Works in Tackling Health Inequalities? Pathways, Policy and Practice through the Lifecourse (Policy Press, 2006) and recently directed the team that set national indicative practice budgets for mental health commissioning.

Sheena served as a board member of the Countryside Agency and is currently a Commissioner on the Commission for Rural Communities. Other current appointments include Council Member, Royal Society for Public Health and Trustee, Plymouth Age Concern.



Neil Gibbins

Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service – OFSM FlfireE

Neil is Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and national lead for fire protection for the UK Chief Fire Officers Association.

Having managed the team that prepared UK fire services to implement the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, Neil now works with UK Government and other key stakeholders through the regulators "World Class Coalition".

In the role of Project Director, Neil helped shape the first voluntary combination of UK fire services, creating the UK's largest non metropolitan service, having over 2200, staff and 85 stations. He was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal in 2010. Neil is also a Director of the Institution of Fire Engineers, and represents the South West UK branch on the International General Assembly.



Andy Clarke

T/Chief Inspector, Mansfield/Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Area

Andy is currently Operations T/Chief Inspector covering the Mansfield/Ashfield Community Safety Partnership/District on behalf of Nottinghamshire Police.

In his current role (and previous role as Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for the Ashfield North Neighbourhood Policing Area), he is the single point of contact for the Section 136 Suite based at Millbrook Mental Health Unit, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire – a role he has performed for over four years.

Andy has continued to work closely with staff at the Unit, and particularly the Governance Lead, resulting in: significant reductions in persons detained inappropriately under Section 136 within the county area, successful implementation of joint protocols, effective partnership relations to ensure honesty, accountability and clear review processes to ensure consistent protocol/policy compliance.



Darren Eaton

Clinical Lead, Jasmine Suite (136 Suite), Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Darren Eaton is employed by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and has worked in the mental health field for 12 years. His current role is working within a Section 136 Suite based in Mansfield where he has been working for the past three years. Previously Darren has worked within a rehabilitation inpatient unit, within a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit and with community Assertive Outreach services. Darren has also assisted in the development of a transitional support service.

Darren enjoys partnership working and has been involved in training members of the local Police to educate them on the needs of people experiencing mental health difficulties. He feels that the local Police and staff on the Unit have an excellent working relationship, enhanced by good communication and it is this which assists in the patient management and ensures the best possible outcome for the client and all parties involved.



Kate Darch

Gloucestershire Village and Community Agent Manager, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

Kate joined Gloucestershire Rural Community Council in 2006 to manage the pilot stage of the original Village Agents Project. The scheme was mainstreamed as a service in Gloucestershire in 2008 and she now manages the 38 agents who make up the countywide Gloucestershire Village and Community Agents team. Kate is responsible for the day to day management, training and performance monitoring of the agents, publicity and liaison with partner agencies.



Kate Mitchinson

Policy Associate & Project Lead Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit, Institute of Rural Health

Kate Mitchinson is an independent specialist in rural policy and health. Currently she is working as an associate of the Institute of Rural Health (IRH) as Project Lead on a new Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit. Kate has substantial experience in rural affairs, social policy and health.

Previously, Kate was Policy Manager for the IRH where she managed the work of the Rural Health Forum (including the development of the first Rural Proofing for Health Project), and co-authored a number of key publications on rural health and wellbeing.

Prior to her time at the IRH, Kate worked for the Countryside Agency and the Rural Development Commission on a wide range of initiatives.

Kate also has a varied background in the voluntary sector having worked for Mencap, Save the Children and in housing.

Kate lives in the heart of the rural Shropshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Dr Deb LeeConsultant Paediatrician, West Cumberland Hospital

A Consultant Paediatrician at the West Cumberland Hospital on the West Coast of Cumbria. 70% of the population live in rural locations but the small scattered urban areas have some of the highest deprivation scores in England. Deb lives in the town of Egremont, which judges itself the most remote town in England, furthest from rail, motorway and air access. As well as the geographical deprivation, it suffers from the deprivation described above and urban drift.

Deb became a Consultant in 1999 after 25 years of training, extended as her husband's job moves them around every two to three years (including spells abroad). Also, as a Paediatrician, Deb wanted to be at home when her four children were small. Having worked in so many different places Deb knew she wanted to work in a small remote hospital. Deb founded and chairs the Remote and Rural Special Interest Group at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Deb has found the support and expertise of the IRH invaluable in helping to change the perspective of the college, so that all documents now differentiate between small proximal and small remote units, which is vital as the needs of children and families attending them are very different.



Nick Chase

Director, Policy and Research, Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

Nick has extensive experience with strategic policy development and delivery. He spent five years working with the South West Regional Assembly developing various strands of the Regional Spatial Strategy. As Principal Policy Analyst he worked on strategic housing policy and developed innovative monitoring solutions for the collection of housing statistics across the South West.

As Research and Intelligence Manager with the South West Observatory he worked very closely with government on the development of data transfer solutions to assist with the Local Area Agreement monitoring and evaluation.

Nick joined ACRE in April 2009 and his role includes:

- Developing ACRE's research, data management and intelligence capacity
- Development of external relationships with primary external stakeholders
- Pursuing potential funding opportunities and developing primary products of ACRE and the Network