

Biographies

Lester Burke MBE

Lester came from Barbados to the UK in the 1960's. He set up the Woodview Community Association in 1976 to address the continual decline of housing and lack of facilities in the Woodview Estate area of Edgbaston. Lester also worked for Hardy Spicer as an engineer and Union Secretary and was appointed as a Community Worker by Birmingham City Council's Housing Department. Other achievements include the opening of a nursery school on the Woodview Estate, which has had a profound effect on community relationships, being elected as a School Governor and successfully requesting a CPN be appointed to cover the Woodview Estate area.

In recognition of his achievements Lester was awarded the MBE (Member of Order of the British Empire). It is an honour he not only accepts for himself but the residents of Woodview Estate and his many associates over the years.

Professor David Cox

David Cox has been Chair of South Birmingham PCT since April 2002 and was recently re-appointed. He is Chair of the Birmingham and Solihull Health and Care Skills Task Force and led the launch of its Diversity Partnership. He is also a member of Birmingham's Health and Well-Being Partnership Committee.

Previously, David Cox was a Primary Care Group lay member and a chair of South Birmingham Community Health Council.

David Cox is a sociologist and worked for the UCE Birmingham (previously Birmingham Polytechnic) from 1970 until 2007 retiring from the post of Associate Dean in the Faculty of Health. He is an Emeritus Professor of the University.

Neil Deuchar, Medical Director

Neil Deuchar is Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Director of BSMHT; Honorary Senior Research Fellow – Department of Neurosciences, University of Birmingham; and Medical Director Advisor (Workforce Reform) to the Care Services Improvement Partnership (West Midlands Development Centre). His qualifications are MBBS, DRCOG, MMedSc, FRCPsych. He is a Fellow of the British Association of Medical Managers. His career has taken him from journalism and public relations into general practice and then to psychiatry. His specialist areas of clinical expertise include eating disorders and perinatal psychiatry. His academic interests include spirituality and the relationship between religion and psychiatry. His areas of managerial specialism include the provision of psychological therapies, care pathways, New Ways of Working and research and development.

Nancy Johnson

Nancy has over 30 years work experience within the area of social care.

During this period she has worked as a practitioner and at most levels of management, undertaking various forms of assessments with children and families in a variety of settings including mental health, childcare, adult care and the probation service in organisations such as Sandwell Social Services (including Looked After Children and Long Term Children's Team), Walsall Social Services (Adults Team), Servol Community Trust Limited, Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Probation Service, Birmingham Social Services (Children's Hospital) and undertook a voluntary role in Health First (UK).

Nancy has a Social Work qualification, an MA in Social Studies and is currently writing up research findings for a PhD at UCE Birmingham.

Mohamed Khalif

Mohamed is a Voluntary Youth Worker and a member of Birmingham Somali Council. He works closely with West Midlands Police in regarding preventing crime and anti social behavior.

Dr Peter Lewis

Dr Peter Lewis is a consultant psychiatrist and clinical director of the Heart of Birmingham directorate of the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust. He has been a practising clinical psychiatrist for over 25 years and worked in Canada, the Caribbean and the UK. He has provided consultancy services to the WHO, the United Nations Drug Control Programme, the European Union and the Caribbean Community Secretariat and has developed protocols and authored needs assessments and reports on illicit drug control programmes in Africa and the Caribbean.

He is past chair of the African-Caribbean Voluntary Sector Providers (AFCAR).

Safina Mistry

Safina joined the Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT in June 2004 in a joint-funded role between local authority and PCT as Strategic Planning and Commissioning Lead for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities. This involves partnership working in redesigning & commissioning services which demonstrate effective care pathways and measurable outcomes for patients. She has effectively commissioned, through open tenders, a range of services addressing social inclusion aimed at diverse communities and is working with Tavistock on capacity building with community development workers.

Safina has contributed to the national work on race equality and mental health commissioning. She is the PCT lead for the development of the forensic medium secure unit and her role also includes operational management of 16 clinical staff within primary care. Her previous roles have included working for NIMHE West Midlands establishing three work programmes, voluntary sector engagement, Social care and Spirituality, a secondment with Regional Action West Midlands, undertaking local research on voluntary sector activity, Citywide Commissioning and Policy Lead for Mental Health in Birmingham, Operational management for generic adult services, Duty Manager for out of hours Emergency Team in Sandwell and older people's CMHT's in Leicester.

Mervyn Morris

Mervyn Morris is Professor of Community Mental Health and Director of the Centre for Community Mental Health at UCE Birmingham, focusing on service redesign and developing alternative approaches through user expertise, particularly in the area of psychosis.

He has worked extensively with European project partners, and for the World Health Organisation, and is Professor II at UC Buskerud, Norway. Mervyn is also Chief Executive of a mental health NGO.

Dave Newall

Dave is the Policy Officer for the West Midlands Strategic Partnership for Asylum and Refugee Support (WMSPARS). He undertakes regional policy work for the partnership on the areas of Health, Education, Children, the Unaccompanied Children's Agenda, and destitution.

He is currently involved in facilitating a regional PCT Asylum Lead Officers meeting with the Director of Public Health for HoBT/PCT, working with CSIP and voluntary sector partners on developing a regional refugee mental health network. He is developing a regional No Recourse to Public Funds group in partnership with other Local Authorities in the region and coordinates regional sub groups looking at the needs and service development for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

He also provides an interagency liaison role with statutory, voluntary and community organisations in the asylum dispersal areas of Dudley, Sandwell, Stoke-on-Trent and Wolverhampton, as well as the development a regional refugee community forum which feeds into the WMSPARS structure.

Fatemeh Rabiee

Fatemeh Rabiee is a Professor in Public Health Promotion at UCE Birmingham. She has initiated, managed and implemented a number of applied research projects in the broad area of health and social care. Her main research interests are public health nutrition, health and social policy, health inequalities, health promotion and evaluation of health & social care projects.

Fatemeh is committed to capacity building and widening participations amongst communities and makes a major contribution to building capacity in research and research supervision for colleagues within the faculty and provides expert contribution to a number of committees within the Faculty of Health and health care agencies in the city of Birmingham.

Fatemeh continues to spend a day a week working in the broad area of public health nutrition/promotion with different agencies in the region and nationally. She has been actively involved in an advisory capacity for a number of voluntary and statutory organisations, nationally and internationally.

Cabdulqaadir Ruumi Abuukar

Cabdulqaadir received his BA degree in Linguistics from the Gahayr University in Somalia and his Specialisation from Pisa University in Italy. He also received his training in health education at the Health Institute in the Netherlands. He was assistant professor of Somali University, a lecturer at the African department at Leiden University in The Netherlands and also Health Educator at the Health Department of the Hague city council in the Netherlands. He is currently Executive Director of the Horn of African Youth Club.

He has published several articles on Health Awareness, with a specific focus on role of health educator in the interaction between health services and minority communities and is also a freelance health adviser and is developing a project, educating voluntary Somali health educators, who can carry out information and health awareness meetings in Birmingham.

Professor David Sallah

David is the National Director responsible for the Department of Health/CSIP programme for Delivering Race Equality in Mental Healthcare, having worked in developing policy at national and government level. David has been a member of four Independent Inquiries into Homicides in mental health services, including the death of David Bennett, which reported in 2003. He was the chair of the national project board for planning and implementing the first very successful ethnicity census in mental health.

As Professor of Mental Health, Dave is the Director of the Centre for Health and Social Care Improvement at the University of Wolverhampton and the Director of Research, Ethics and Consultancy for the School of Health. He co-edits the textbook, 'Research and Development in Mental Health', published by Elsevierhealth in 2005

Mohamed Sharif

Mohamed received his BS in accountancy from Somali National University, Institute of SIDAM. He worked with Somali Airlines and held several positions such as: International Affairs Manager, Accounting Manager and, lastly, Finance Director in Somalia. He was an Officer with Stockholm City Council in Sweden before becoming a business advisor for Somalis living in Stockholm.

He moved to Birmingham, where he started to work as accountant with a small business and also works as a casual interpreter with Birmingham City Council, Social and Care Department. At present he is Vice Chairman of Horn of Africa Youth Club. Mohamed speaks Somali, Arabic, English, Italian and Swedish.

Surinder Sharma

Surinder Sharma took up his post as National Director for Equality and Human Rights at the Department of Health in October 2004. He has worked in the diversity field for 25 years. As a fully qualified lawyer, Surinder began his career with the Commission for Racial Equality in 1983. He has been a Councillor at Leicester, chaired Leicester Racial Equality Council and was previously a Chair in Leicester Magistrates Court. His career has taken him into a variety of different organisations: BBC Television, Littlewoods Retail and Ford Motor Company. He is a Commissioner at the Equal Opportunities Commission, and has chaired the EOC's Legal Committee. He is also on the Conference Board of the European Work Life Diversity Forum.

Paula Smith

Paula has over 15 years experience carrying out research, consultancy and development in the field of public policy and tackling inequalities in health. She has carried out research projects funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and has undertaken research for the University of Birmingham, University of Central England in Birmingham and People for Action as Head of Policy and Research.

She has also worked within statutory and NGO sectors as Senior Health Promotion Officer (Community Development) for Sandwell Health Authority; Co-Director (job-share) of the Centre for Health Action Research (CHART) West Midlands and is currently Health Inequalities Policy Implementation Lead (job-share) on the strategy for tackling inequalities in health in Dudley.

Paula also works as a freelance consultant and has set up a complementary therapies project for young people with physical and learning disabilities at Hereward College in Coventry.

Catherine Underwood

Catherine is just taking up the position of Head of Commissioning in the Adults and Communities Directorate of Birmingham City Council, with responsibility for the strategic commissioning across adult services. She has worked in Local Authority social care services for 15 years, much of that time specialising in mental health. She is a registered social worker.

"Presentations by Service Users and Carers"

We are indebted to all the service users and carers who took part in the research. Some of the service users and carers have additionally agreed to speak at the conference about the experiences that have informed the research. We have respected their wishes as to whether they want to be named or not, in the conference programme.