



# Positive Action in the Community

## Trustees and their roles

**What is a trustee?** - Trustees have independent control over, and are legally responsible for, a charity's management and administration. Their role is unpaid, and are appointed based on the skills that they can bring to support the Charity and its governance. A trustee has a legal duty to; Act in the Charity's best interest, manage the charity's resources responsibly, and to act with reasonable care and skill.

As you can tell trustees play a very important role within PAC, therefore it is important for you to know who they are. Please allow us to introduce you to Positive Action in the Community's Board of Trustees.

### Nicola Barrow – Vice Chair - Appointed as a trustee 2010

Nicola is a qualified solicitor specialising in family law since 2003, having worked within the legal sector since 1999. She is head of the family department in a four office firm. Nicola has worked closely with a number of agencies connected to Domestic Violence during her time as a solicitor and has completed various additional qualifications to increase her knowledge and experience of family law.

Nicola has been a qualified Children's Panel member since 2010, which enables Nicola to represent Parents and Children in family Courts, also since the 2010 being a specialist accredited member of resolution, a national organisation which aims to deal with matters in a non-confrontational manner. Nicola has specialisms in Domestic Violence and Children's Law.

Nicola has extensive knowledge of Domestic Violence dealing with clients through all aspects from individual support and advice to obtaining orders in the family courts. Nicola has experience of Private and Public law matters, from contact, residence, family separation and emergency orders; to advising pre-and post-issue of court proceedings. Nicola deals with clients at incredibly vulnerable times of their life's and whilst she is empathetic to their situations she continues to deal with matters professionally and objectively.



### Susan Biggs – Chair – Appointed as a trustee 2009



Susan has retired from teaching after 36 years in secondary education. Much of that time was spent in pastoral work and therefore she has a great depth of understanding of the issues faced by young people and how to respond effectively to them.

Susan is a member of Soroptimist International- the women's service organisation where she has held several senior positions within the organisation at national and international level including Federation President for Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland. With her local club SI Pendleside Susan is fully involved in the Club's work with local refuges and outreach services.

Susan is currently Chairman of Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service and also serves as a Lancashire Assessor for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Through these roles Susan brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the complexities of the voluntary sector. Her specialist area of expertise is in the governance of charities.

## **Andrew Dewhurst – Treasurer – Appointed as a trustee 2012**

Andrew founded Affilius Group in 1990 and has grown the digital consultancy and software solutions business to include 8 subsidiaries and 14 software solution brands. Andrew started his career as IT Manager for an East Lancashire engineering company before taking the role of IT Director for a global manufacturing group where he led a team implementing business software across 23 factories in 18 countries.

He has worked in a non-exec Director and business coach role with over 50 North West digital and IT sector businesses. He has lived and worked in Switzerland for three years and the USA for three years.

Andrew is also the Founder of the Community Interest Companies Safety Bubble CIC and The IT Works Hub CIC.

Andrew graduated from UCLAN with a BSc. (Hons) in Business Information Technology. He is a keen musician and composer and author of the books 'Service Saviour' (2008) and 'The 7 reasons IT projects fail' (2018).



## **Ian Galbraith – Appointed as trustee 1997 (Founder trustee)**



Ian is a founder member of PAC which he formed with a number of other managers of agencies in Pendle to address problems that the statutory sector could not tackle. He has served on the boards of a number of hostels, housing association and charities.

Ian spent the majority of his working life in offender management. A qualified social worker, he worked as a probation officer in east Lancashire before progressing to a range of management and policy jobs in the probation and prison services, the voluntary sector and the national offender management service. He managed the probation service in Pendle for a number of years. He has managed multi-disciplinary teams in city, urban and rural areas and has had responsibility for housing, employment, external funding and substance abuse in probation services. Ian has been national manager for Nacro's delivery of housing services in prisons and has been responsible for equality and housing policy in European funded employment projects in the prison service. He completed his career by leading the policy team responsible for accommodation, finance, benefits and debt in the national offender management service.

## **Neal Stone- Appointed as a trustee 2018**

Neal has extensive skills and experience of operating in an environment which required considerable political, leadership, communications and management expertise and competencies. His career history is wide ranging within multiple senior roles covering Policy, Standards and Communications and Health and Safety on a national level. His roles have covered work within the public, private, and charitable sector at all levels, from the shop floor to the board room. Neal is now semi-retired but continues to provide consultancy-based support within the field of Health and Safety.

Neal moved to the North West from the South East in January 2018. He lives with his wife Jude in the Pendle area and enjoys spending time with his two daughters and four grandchildren.

Neal is an avid football fan with Chelsea being his team of choice since the 1960s.

Neal is passionate about building a society that protects, supports and benefits everyone. He wants to help make a difference locally and nationally and is particularly keen to see the Government improve its performance in assisting those in need.

