

# Children and Families Trust welcomes new Board members

**Bradford Children and Families Trust has appointed five new non-executive directors to its Board. The Board is currently operating as a Shadow-Board until 1 April 2023 when the Trust will go live and the same Board members will become members of the permanent Bradford Children and Families Trust Board.**

The Board will also welcome two Council non-executive directors and further information will be released once they are confirmed.

The Trust is currently being set up to take on the running of children's social care services and will have a single focus on children's care across the Bradford District.

The decision to form a Trust was made in January 2022 in response to a report from Children's Commissioner, Steve Walker. The Commissioner worked with the Council to establish the best way to improve children's social care following Ofsted's inadequate rating in 2018.

The new Board members come from a variety of backgrounds and will bring a wealth of expertise and experience to help direct the Trust as it becomes established and to drive forward improvements for children's social care services. The new Board members are:

**Tracey Dennison** has 25 years' experience as a people director in national and local public sector organisations, including the London Borough of Camden and the Audit Commission. Her last role was the London Fire Brigade and included responsibility for the Brigade's wellbeing response after the Grenfell Tower fire.

**Anne Longfield CBE** is a former Children's Commissioner for England and now Chair of the Commission on Young Lives. Anne was Special Advisor to the Lords Public Services Committee on their inquiry into public services and vulnerable children and is the Independent Chair of the NHS Children and Young People Learning Disability and Autism Board.

**Stuart Proud** is a fully-qualified accountant with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) with extensive experience of public sector services from working in a variety of Civil Service roles across central government departments and their agencies in a career spanning 37 years.

**Nigel Richardson CBE** has over 35 years' experience working in various local government leadership roles in the UK. His most recent position was as Director of Children's Services at Leeds City Council where he successfully helped develop the idea of Leeds as a 'Child Friendly City'. He now works as a consultant, a Department of Education Commissioner and Improvement Advisor helping organisations develop effective approaches to child welfare issues.

**Darra Singh OBE** is from Bradford and is the son of first generation migrants who moved to inner city Bradford from the Punjab in 1959. He passed through the full education system in the city and his personal experiences in Bradford as a young person have been a strong motivator throughout his career. Darra has worked across all sectors at a range of different levels, starting in the voluntary sector working with housing charities and becoming CEO of housing associations. Darra has been CEO of Luton Borough Council, London Borough of Ealing and also Jobcentre Plus. He has experience of non-executive roles including Chair of Barnardo's Audit and Risk Committee for five years and is now the Chair of the Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion.

**Sarah Muckle** became the Director of Public Health in Bradford in 2018, following roles as Consultant, Deputy Director and Interim DPH. Prior to coming to Bradford, she worked in Kirklees for 8 years as a Public Health Consultant in both the PCT and Local Authority, where she also held the position of Acting Director of Public Health for 6 months. Some key achievements include: developing a community based chronic pain service that achieved national recognition and informed the development of a national chronic pain strategy and RCGP commissioning guidance, development of an online tool to support people to self-care that was nominated for a Digital 100 award and development of a nationally recognised self-care programme. She has spoken at a number of national conferences on these topics including the Kings Fund International Digital Health and Care Conference, House of Lords, Northern Ireland Pain Alliance Pain and the Royal College of GP's.

**Fazeela Hafejee** has over 20 years senior strategic leadership experience in the health and social care field as a social worker. Currently working as the Assistant Director- Adults with Disabilities for BMDC Bradford born and bred, Fazeela's career began in advocacy helping individuals and their families and/or carers

who need care and support. Fazeela has also worked as a consultant in the areas of strategic leadership, partnership building, change management, research and evaluation and service development.

Fazeela is also a hands-on and skilled facilitator with individuals, teams and organisations at all levels of the social care, health, higher education and private sectors. Fazeela's reputation has led to her being invited as a guest lecturer at universities, alongside contributing to an academic workbook for social work students.

Fazeela Hafejee said: "I am really excited about joining the Trust as a Non Exec Director. Bradford is where I grew up and a place I am passionate about and it will be a privilege to be able to make a difference to our children and young people. I am really looking forward to working with all the Board Members, staff and our partners who work in social care across the district."