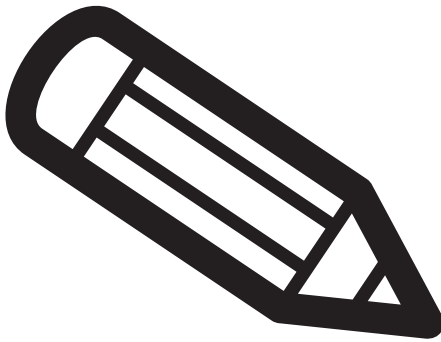


Doncaster CVS

Third Sector Elections

Guidance Notes &
Candidate Statements



Vote



DtS Board
Healthier Doncaster
Enterprising Doncaster



Third Sector Representation

Making your vote count

Introduction

This booklet includes the supporting statements of those candidates standing for election as third sector representatives on the Discover the Spirit Partnership. Accompanied with the booklet you will have also received a ballot paper. **Please read the supporting statements and return your completed ballot paper to Doncaster CVS by 12 noon on Thursday 25th June 2009.** If you have any questions or require a replacement ballot paper please contact Chris Stephenson on telephone number 01302 343300 ext 225.

Summary of Boards and Candidates

Discover the Spirit (DtS) Board - 1 Place

The DtS Board oversees the partnership as a whole and makes sure that effort and activity is directed where it is needed the most. The Board meets approximately every six weeks.

Candidates:

- **Joyce Foster (YWCA)**
- **Phil Mann (Rossington Development Trust)**
- **Maddie O'Sullivan (South Yorkshire Centre for Inclusive Living)**

Enterprising Doncaster Board - 2 Places

The Enterprising Doncaster theme board is a private-sector led partnership that takes a lead on the work, skills and enterprise priorities for the borough. The board meets quarterly.

Candidates:

- **Alan Bell (North Doncaster Development Trust)**
- **Susan Durant (Thorne & Moorends Youth Group)**
- **Nuala Fennelly (Rossington Welfare Learning Centre Ltd)**
- **Judith Smith (Doncaster CSEP CIC)**

Healthier Doncaster Board - 2 Places

The Healthier Doncaster theme Board maintains a strategic overview of health and social care issues in Doncaster and acts as the link to the Doncaster Discover the Spirit Board for the health and social care community. The board meets quarterly.

Candidates:

- **Diane Derbyshire (YWCA)**
- **Susan Durant (Thorne & Moorends Youth Group)**
- **Jackie Lewis (Doncaster Mind)**
- **Phil Mann (Rossington Development Trust)**
- **Maddie O'Sullivan (South Yorkshire Centre for Inclusive Living)**

Alan Bell

North Doncaster Development Trust (NDDT)

Candidate for: Enterprising Doncaster

I wish to be part of the Enterprising Doncaster Board because I believe that my own experience, and that of North Doncaster Development Trust (NDDT) will contribute positively to the regeneration of Doncaster communities.

I have been Chief Executive at NDDT for eight months, and that time with the team has been exciting. I am filled with enthusiasm at the future impact which the trust can have. It is clear that all the staff, Trustees and volunteers have a combined energy that will continue to develop the organisation's contribution to local regeneration into the future.

The NDDT team have a range of high quality skills and experience, with a good mix of personalities and knowledge throughout the organisation. My experience in the community and regeneration arena over the past 16 years adds to that team. Born, bred and resident in a coal mining community, I have a deep passion to help reverse the downturn in fortunes of local people and businesses hit so hard following the pit closure programmes.

My whole area of work over that period has been in community regeneration, firstly as a Community Development coordinator on the South Elmsall, South Kirkby and Upton SRB programme, and then as the Yorkshire Regional Manager for the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation. During this period, I worked in the deprived areas of Doncaster, encouraging partnership arrangements between funders, the Local Authority, Agencies and the voluntary sector to develop and sustain the community assets of the local Miner Welfare Charities.

My contribution to the Enterprising Doncaster agenda will be to utilise NDDT's unique position between the public, private and community sectors so that the Board are well informed of current community issues, and can better facilitate regeneration initiatives effectively where they are needed. Our current work on the CEA, BEST and Job Mates contracts gives us a wealth of knowledge on what does or doesn't work, and an insight into some of the innovative ideas which, if nurtured, could provide a springboard for the resurgence of local business.

On behalf of NDDT, I will be encouraging long term solutions to regeneration, and investment in the talents of the communities which we serve.

Diane Derbyshire

YWCA

Candidate for: Healthier Doncaster

My name is Diane Derbyshire. I have worked in social care settings for the last twenty-nine years. I am currently the Centre Manager of YWCA, Doncaster Women's Centre. In this role I lead a dynamic team of multi-disciplinary professionals, delivering a needs led holistic service of individual and therapeutic support, personal development courses, ESOL, Accredited Learning, Parenting Skills, Healthy Lifestyles, Volunteering, Work Experience opportunities as well as Crèche facilities to women in the Borough of Doncaster.

Many of our groups participate in surveys and consultations to raise awareness of barriers, gaps in service and issues that impact on them and their family's lives. This provides opportunities for women to influence policies, procedures, and the development of services locally and nationally.

In order for me to be effective in this role, I have to be aware of changes in Government guidelines and legislation as well as County Council decisions that effect home, family and community life.

I believe in the benefits of collaborative working with Partner Organisations. YWCA in Doncaster offers specific services for learning disability, mental health issues, looked after, and offending women, and black and ethnic minorities; therefore, staff from our organisation, participate and are directly involved in appropriate partner organisations network meetings. Feedback from them forms the web that enables me to advocate and genuinely represent the third sector from a real and operational perspective.

For the past two years I have represented the Third Sector on the Healthier Doncaster Thematic Board, this has been a huge, and worthwhile learning curve for me in which ultimately I have been able contribute based on professional and life experiences as well as a wealth of knowledge gained through direct involvement with service users. I feel a total dedication to this role and have demonstrated this by a conscientious attitude to preparation and attendance at meetings. I hope that my enthusiasm and commitment will ensure that I can continue in this capacity and that I can rely on your vote.

My aim is to explore opportunities for third sector involvement and raise awareness of the unique and innovative ways that the third sector contributes to delivering services that meet the local area agreement strategic outcomes.

Susan Durant

Thorne and Moorends Youth Group

Candidate for: Healthier Doncaster, Enterprising Doncaster

I am married with two children and have lived in Thorne all my life. I have always been involved in volunteering work whether it is fundraising, local football clubs or local led initiatives. I enjoy working with local people and working alongside members of the community who want to make a difference in the area that they live. I enjoy running activities and projects that benefit children and young people of our community and also the elderly of our community.

I have a varied work history which includes working with the more vulnerable groups within our community. I have worked as a carer, risk assessor, team leader and then became care manager for the Wheatley and Armthorpe area. I have also worked within challenging environments which were target and deadline orientated, I was the team leader for Sales Support for Dixons Motor Holding responsible for running my own team, liaising with department managers and problems solving for the teams.

I am the Centre Manager for the Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre which is a job that I love; it enables me to be to achieve job satisfaction. My role as Centre Manager requires many skills encouraging close working relationships with local groups and organisations, supporting local groups and working with members of the local community.

The centre is at the heart of our community and provides such a wide range of projects and activities for our community. I have a strong belief in what we are trying to achieve and the important role that the voluntary sector has within the local community in the delivery of services.

I have been a member of the Community Empowerment Network since it started and fully believe in its aims and objectives. I believe that I have the necessary skills and attributes to make a positive contribution and represent the views of Community Empowerment Network in Doncaster; it would be an honour and a privilege.

Nuala Fennelly

Rossington Welfare Learning Centre Ltd

Candidate for: Enterprising Doncaster

I have a good understanding of the third sector having participated as a trustee since 2005 and working within the sector from 2006. I manage a Learning Centre within an extremely deprived community which concentrates on personal development of people within our community. Within this time I have worked on growing the learning centre as an organisation and it has progressed from being part of the main Charity to establishing itself as a social enterprise in its own right. As a limited company under the Charity it now allows growth in areas that would have been limited to us before.

The issues of grant funding, sustainability and more recently procuring for public sector contracts are at the forefront of our planning as an organisation in order to continue the work we do. At a strategic level the importance of Local area agreements, white papers and politics on a local and national level are prevalent to my every day work and I am actively involved in ensuring that the third sector is heard when it comes to areas that affect us. I am currently a board member for the South Yorkshire VC Train consortium and Rossington Development Trust, I participate and assist in the development of these organisations as is appropriate in the position held.

As a manager and ex secondary school teacher I am confident in presenting information in a variety of different settings and my communication skills are excellent. I work at present with Doncaster CVS on a regular basis due to the support they provide to our sector and work to be visible as a representative of our sector with other organisations from the private and statutory sectors in the partnerships I have established over the previous years. I actively work in these partnerships to create viable solutions to the issues that our communities face on all levels.

Joyce Foster

YWCA

Candidate for: DtS Board

My name is Joyce Foster. I am Head of Innovation and Enterprise Development for YWCA England & Wales based in Doncaster and covering all National YWCA projects across the UK. I have worked within the Voluntary Sector since 1995 and have a thorough understanding of the issues facing Third Sector organisations. This built upon a time of employment with statutory services which has ensured I have a good understanding of the nature of the structures and ways of working of our partner agencies.

I have been involved with CEN since it began in 2002 and have both Chaired and Vice-chaired the Network for around 4 years of that 7 year involvement. I am also active within the Community Empowerment Arena at a Regional Level with the Regional Community Panel and Consortium and Nationally through my work with The National Community Forum, a community led policy advisory forum to government on all issues facing the Third Sector. I have been the CEN representative on the Dts Board for the past 18 months through a time of great uncertainty around the continued funding of the CEN in Doncaster. This has been a difficult situation across the whole of the country with Doncaster being one of very few CEN's still active. I had played a strong role in the negotiations to ensure that CEN continues to be resourced and positioned appropriately within the strategic partnership structure to enable a strong third sector voice to play an active part in the delivery of improvements of services in Doncaster. Pressing for clear policy and practice around commissioning in the future remains my top priority if elected for a new term. During my 18 month term on the DtS Board, which was a newly structured partnership at that time; I have had direct involvement in developing all of the major Strategic documents current today. These include the Local Area Agreement, The Sustainable Borough Strategy and Doncaster's newly signed and agreed Compact.

I have endeavoured to ensure that at all times that I have achieved a secure mandate from the Network, through involvement with the steering group, to clearly and honestly reflect the needs and aspirations of all third sector organisations in Doncaster be they big or small. I have delivered what I hope have been informative briefings to ensure that the information that has any impact on the sector from the meetings I have attended, is shared and as accessible as is possible. My attendance at the Dts Board is 100% along with the many impromptu meetings that have occurred throughout the past 18 months. I have and would continue to offer a 100% commitment to the work of CEN and its aims that in turn have a clear purpose to advocate and support all those within the VCS.

Jackie Lewis

Doncaster Mind

Candidate for: Healthier Doncaster

I believe that I have all the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to take on the role of representing CEN on the Healthier Doncaster Board. I have been one of the two Third Sector representatives on the board for over 3 years and for the last 18 months I have Chaired this Theme Board. During this time I believe I have demonstrated that, given the opportunity, third sector representatives can prove to be truly equal partners and work appropriately and successfully at every level.

I also represent the Third Sector on the Mental Health Partnership Board, the Mental Health Local Implementation Team and the Primary Care Mental Health Group. All of this experience means I have developed excellent negotiation skills, the ability to diplomatically, but forcefully if necessary, present the views and perspectives of the Third Sector. I have consistently argued the case for greater partnership working between statutory and voluntary/community sector agencies and have been actively involved in many examples of developing good partnership working.

I have been a volunteer, trustee and employee in the Voluntary Sector for over 25 years, the majority of this time in the health and social care sector. I am currently Director at Doncaster Mind and am also acting Chairperson of CHAF (Community Health Action Forum). I have been Vice-Chairperson of Doncaster CVS for a number of years and this role enables me to keep up to date with issues relevant to the whole Third Sector in Doncaster and in particular the Local Area Agreement and the effect on the Third Sector.

Over recent years I have greatly developed my experience in commissioning and procurement both through my paid work within a Voluntary agency providing services on behalf of statutory agencies and also through my roles within CVS and CHAF. I ensure that I keep my knowledge and understanding up to date and attend local, regional and national events on behalf of CHAF, my own agency and also as part of Doncaster's Mental Health Partnership Board.

I have consistently supported and been active within Doncaster's Health & Social Care voluntary/community sector and have sustained this commitment throughout challenging periods for myself and my own organisation, thereby demonstrating my ability to fulfil any commitments I undertake. I believe I would effectively represent Doncaster's Third Sector on the Healthier Doncaster Board should I be given the opportunity to do so.

Candidate for: Healthier Doncaster, DtS Board

I am committed to ensuring that the third sector is able to have a clear involvement in both strategic and day to day activities across the borough.

I have spent many years in senior management positions within the public sector (NHS). This has given me a clear insight into the way these sectors operate and how we can effectively connect community initiatives into their policies, procedures and general development initiatives.

If elected I would:

- Ensure that the community and voluntary sector has a clear voice in borough wide initiatives
- Make sure that all the grass roots groups have the support they need to continue their valuable roles
- Strive to build effective working relationships with neighbourhood services in all the statutory agencies

In short I am committed to demonstrating the positive effect of involving the community and voluntary sector in Doncaster.

Maddie O'Sullivan

South Yorkshire Centre for Inclusive Living (SYCIL)

Candidate for: Healthier Doncaster, DtS Board

My knowledge and experience of the sector spans 30 years, where I have predominantly but not exclusively supported and represented disabled people on a range of issues. I have been working in Doncaster since 1996 as the Chief Executive of the South Yorkshire Centre for Inclusive Living. During this time I have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience of the health & social care needs of local people and communities.

Over the years I have represented the voluntary & community sector on a strategic level on many Boards; including the Disability Equality Scheme Steering Group, NSF Implementation Team for Diabetes, Patient Forum. I have taken an active part in ensuring the views of the sector have been reflected in the Local Area Agreement. I am currently the CEN representative on the Disability Partnership Board and have had continuous involvement in developing the strategic plan, ensuring that it reflects the needs of local people. As an active and committed member of the Disability Partnership Board I take the role of representative seriously and I make it a priority to listen to the needs and concerns of local people and organisations and feed these back to the Board, likewise I have a responsibility to keep organisations informed of the progress and work of the Board and submit reports following meetings, I am also available to discuss issues if required. I believe that as a representative it is essential to ensure that all views are fairly represented and heard and over the years I believe that local disabled people and carers have through my role as representative been able to contribute to the development and planning of more appropriate services.

My work at SYCIL is primarily concerned with ensuring that individuals have access to a range of services that support and enable them to live their lives to the full. In order to achieve this I have to be aware of both challenges and opportunities and inform and advise various bodies on policy issues and current developments in the field of health, social care and disability as such I have an understanding of both local and national policy issues and priorities.

As well as my experience of local issues and the needs of local people and organisations I can bring a wider perspective having been involved with work for example in Nottinghamshire looking specifically at developing commissioning models between NHS Nottingham & the local VCS. I am part of a 'critical friend' network which supports organisations with tenders.

I believe that the VCS have a great deal to offer in helping to define local need, identifying solutions and determining how best to deliver services and that my local experience and knowledge together with an awareness of how things are achieved in other regions enables me to fully represent the needs of the VCS with the ultimate goal of making a difference to and improving peoples quality of life.

Judith Smith

Doncaster CSEP CIC

Candidate for: Enterprising Doncaster

I would welcome the opportunity to serve as third sector representative on the Enterprising Doncaster Board. From my own experiences there are two main issues that I think are important to the sector at this time:

• **Procurement and Commissioning**

In a climate where the government and others are aiming to increase public spending with the third sector and where grant funding is getting scarcer I believe procurement and commissioning is a key agenda item for the sector.

I am therefore particularly interested in pushing for better local commissioning practices, including the use of small grants, so that small and large organisations are given the best opportunities to succeed.

There are some good examples of procurement working well for third sector organisations. I'd like to see this become much more common-place by working with the Enterprise Board to increase understanding and develop successful business relationships between the public, private and third sector organisations in Doncaster.

• **The sector's economic contribution**

The fact that the sector makes a significant positive economic contribution to the local economy; by bringing money into the community, providing employment and spending on local goods and services, is often overlooked. However, the economic downturn is placing its own particular stresses and strains on the sector. At a time when there is potentially less money available the demand for its services increase as more people turn to the sector for help, support and advice. I want the Borough's economic plans to take full account of supporting a thriving third sector.

My approach to the role:

Although I have identified two issues close to my heart in taking on the role I would aim to be a visible representative and someone the sector and its partner organisations find it easy to communicate with. I will therefore take the views from the CEN membership and actively participate in meetings to advocate and negotiate on its behalf and report back promptly and objectively.

Relevant experience and knowledge:

I consider that I have the relevant knowledge and experience to make me an able and suitable representative. I have worked in the third sector for over 12 years as an employee, trustee and volunteer. In January this year I became the manager of Doncaster CSEP CIC, a social enterprise that provides specialist procurement support to help organisations win contracts. Before joining CSEP CIC I was manager of the social enterprise development team based at Doncaster CVS. My early career was based in economic regeneration when I worked in central, regional and local government (Department of Trade & Industry and Wakefield MDC). This experience, together with my awareness of the wider third sector, means that I have a good understanding and knowledge of the issues falling within the remit of the Enterprising Doncaster Board.

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Doncaster CVS

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