

Supporting Statement

I have worked for DRASACS for over 21 years, including both voluntary and paid work. As a founder member I have the experience of being part of a small, entirely voluntary, organisation as well as being part of its growth and development into an established service, currently with ten paid workers.

I was elected CEN representative on the Safer Doncaster Partnership in 2007 and have an almost 100% attendance record, missing only an occasional meeting due to holidays or a prior commitment, and have fed back to the network regularly. My experience on this board, as previous chair of South Yorkshire Open Forum and current chair of Doncaster Domestic Violence Working Party all ensure that I am used to, and comfortable with, working at a strategic level and with partners from all sectors. I also sit as voluntary sector representative on the Mental Health Partnership Board and fully recognise the responsibility to represent sector, not individual views. I contribute appropriately to meetings and am prepared to challenge if necessary.

DRASACS works with the victims of crime and my experience in this area has particularly helped in contributing to the Partnership's strategy for supporting victims. I also sit on the Violent Crime Theme Group, with a domestic and sexual violence brief, and therefore have the opportunity to bring a sector view at this level too. As well as being victims of crime, as a result of their experiences our clients often have both physical and mental health issues; therefore our work spans a wider arena and gives a broad spectrum understanding of the issues that affect people's lives and how they interlink.

As a resident of one of Doncaster's more deprived areas, I not only have an individual interest in contributing to a safer environment I also bring personal as well as professional knowledge and understanding; my long experience within the voluntary sector gives me an awareness of the issues that face a wide range of very disparate groups, organisations and communities.

I believe I have represented CEN with diligence and integrity over the last two years and have made mutually respectful relationships with the various partners. I would welcome the opportunity to continue in this role, and be part of ensuring that the voices of people and communities are heard at a strategic level. All communities should be safe and secure places for people to live and I believe I can contribute to this objective.