

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019

For THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019, we have three candidates who are standing for election:

Eleanor Healy-Birt
Louisa Vickers-Mills
Mike Smith

You will find here a supporting statement here for each candidate.

THCVS have also included profiles of our current trustees for your information:

Chris Ley
Selina Uddin
Yara Marion
Jama Omar
Mustafa Ibrahim
Mohammad Rahman

THCVS would like to extend a warm and heartfelt thanks to the dedicated service of our trustees who have stepped down during the year:

Eddie Coppinger
Suzanne Firth
Joynul Hoque

THCVS would like you to join us in a special thanks to two trustees who are stepping down today, both of whom have contributed enormously to the life and work of the organisation. Their service to THCVS has steered the charity adroitly through a period of change with clarity and dedication. They leave the charity stronger and more focused on the communities we serve. We hope you join us in wishing them well in their next adventures:

Preeti Udas
Sharon Hanooman

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019 Supporting Statements

Name: Eleanor Healy-Birt

Organisation: Not Applicable

Membership Type: Individual

I am a solicitor, working in the Dispute Resolution department of law firm Slaughter and May. I work on court cases and investigations both in the UK and abroad. My clients include companies, government departments and regulators.

From my work, I am used to reading lots of information and having to make quick decisions, which is useful at board meetings. I have also volunteered at several charities, including the Prison Reform Trust and African Initiatives so have some insight into the day-to-day operation of this sector.

I was born in Stepney and spent several of my formative years in Bow. Although my family later moved outside London, I came back to the borough when I started working in the City. I now live just next door, in Stratford, and regularly visit Tower Hamlets.

I wanted to see what the voluntary and community sector was like in Tower Hamlets, and THCVS seemed like it would give me that bird's eye view. I also thought that I had some useful skills which would benefit the board.

I play the violin and attend weekly rehearsals of the London Repertoire Orchestra. I also love nature and the great outdoors so try to get out on the weekend for a walk. My latest interest is tango – I married an Argentinian and we have started learning this traditional dance from his home country together. It is quite difficult but it feels great when we finally get something right!

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019 Supporting Statements

Name: Louisa Vickers-Mills

Organisation: Not Applicable

Membership Type: Individual

I work as a training partner for an educational technology company, which provides a variety of content databases for academic research, as well as technological solutions for library management. I consult on usage and best practices in collaboration with customers and sales teams, in order to provide the best support package to customers.

I have strong communication, presentation, and organisational skills as well as excellent attention to detail. I have qualifications in education and library management, as well as 10 year experience in the library sector (academic and special libraries) both in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

I moved to London in early 2018, and I moved into the borough a year ago. I have enjoyed being a part of the history, culture, and community of East London. I especially love Victoria Park, and have spent time there as a volunteer during community events in 2019, as well as exploring and enjoying the park for my own enjoyment.

I wanted to participate and contribute to the community of Tower Hamlets, and I think that by being a part of the THCVS board I can use my skills to the benefit of the community. I want to do my part to contribute to the community in the area that I live, and I feel that my skill-set is best suited for governance and organisational roles. Over the last 10 months I have enjoyed being able to contribute to the THCVS by being on the Board, as well as getting to know more about the charity sector.

I love discovering new things about London and the United Kingdom, and have been making the most of my English Heritage membership to visit a lot of historical sites (mainly castles).

I am a bit of a foodie, and love discovering new places to eat. When I travel to new places/countries/areas of the world, one of my favourite parts is discovering new dishes, and ways of preparing food, from different cultures. I enjoy cooking a variety of meals at home, while also discovering recipes and dishes from other cultures that taste delicious.

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019 Supporting Statements

Name: Mike Smith

Organisation: REAL DPO

Membership Type: Organisation Member

I've been CEO of a local not-for-profit organisation for the last 9 ½ years, helping it double in size, gain quality assurance accreditations, and withstand the knocks that all of us in the sector have had to cope with over the last 10 years. Prior to that I was a Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers, specialising in risk management and regulatory compliance .

I've been on the board and chair of several local and national not-for-profit organisations, helping lead the merger of three organisations into Disability Rights UK. For three years I was a Commissioner at the UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission where I had board experience in the public sector, of course following the Nolan principles of standards in public life. That also gave me media experience, and led to my subsequent appointment to the UK government's independent advisory group on hate crime.

I've lived in Wapping, Tower Hamlets since 1998 - the longest I've ever lived anywhere! Starting to feel like a Londoner now. And I've worked here since 2010, so I don't need a satnav to get around the borough any more.

The honest answer is that I was asked to! I'd been involved in various THCVS development activities and other work from the organisation, and when it came to the AGM a few years ago someone contacted me and suggested I apply. It's been a challenging few years on the board but worth it. It's good to know that you are making a difference for the wider sector, not just your own organisation. Now we have the organisation settled it is going to be an interesting time working with our new CEO to realise the vision of what a good CVS should be for a whole range of local organisations.

I'm a bit of a geek when it comes to politics and the news, and I enjoy reading fiction and non-fiction at night to push work out of my head before I go to sleep. In terms of living in London I'll do theatre, live gigs, opera, dance, comedy or other entertainment something like 3 times a week on average. If you're going to live in a city like London I think you need to make the most of it. I'm a bit of a travel enthusiast as well and at the last count have been to something like 45 countries. That means many more to explore!

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019 Meet our Board Members

Name: Chris Ley

Organisation: Poplar & Limehouse Health Network

Membership Type: Organisation Member

I am currently Network Director of the Poplar & Limehouse Health Network and the Healthy Island Partnership providing health and wellbeing initiatives working with GPs and community partners in Poplar, Limehouse and the Isle of Dogs. I also work as a director for the TH GP Care Group (the GP Federation in Tower Hamlets) running their Substance Misuse work.

Before moving into health, my past roles in Tower Hamlets included: Director of Economic Regeneration with Poplar HARCA (running amongst other things - youth services, training & employment initiatives, housing services and community centres) and Co-ordinator of Tower Hamlets Neighbourhood Management through a secondment to LBTH.

I have past experience as a trustee for various organisations including TH GP Care Group CIC (founder member), Bromley by Bow Centre, Maya Productions (Hackney). I am currently Chair of the National Association of Neighbourhood Management. Through my involvement with these organisations I am aware of many aspects of charity law, company law and the legislation governing voluntary organisations.

I have worked within the Voluntary, Charity or Public Sector for the past 30 years and I am in my 22nd year here in Tower Hamlets.

Having worked in Tower Hamlets through a time when there was no central organisation representing our local community sector, I have been impressed by the rapid development of THCVS and the way it has given leadership and support to the sector at a time of cuts and austerity.

I would hope my experience and knowledge of running small/medium sized companies, running public services and encouraging the growth and stability of voluntary groups, has been useful during my two years on the CVS Board. I value the continued opportunity, to work as a Trustee of THCVS, and to help support voluntary organisations to continue to provide their vital services to the residents of Tower Hamlets.

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019 Meet our Board Members

Name: Selina Uddin

Organisation: Not Applicable

Membership Type: Individual

For twelve years I have worked in the area of Social Mobility and Corporate Social Responsibility supporting charities to be stronger and resilient.

I have extensive experience in managing change, forward planning, and building strong teams. Working with a number of different charities with a wide range of challenges and opportunities has given me scope to come up with creative solutions and partnerships which I hope can be applied to the work and governance at THCVS.

I am a lifelong resident of Tower Hamlets, I went to school here and most of my immediate and extended family live in the borough. I feel lucky to live in a place that has so much to offer in terms of support.

When considering a volunteering role, I was looking for somewhere that I could add value to, give back in a meaningful way whilst also learning at the same time and this seemed like a good fit!

I enjoy supporting people with their personal goals through coaching and mentoring and have been doing this for a number of years.

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019 Meet our Board Members

Name: Yara Marion

Organisation: Not Applicable

Membership Type: Individual

Yara lives in Tower Hamlets since 2014 and has been involved with THCVS for about 18 months. She started as a volunteer and moved to become a trustee on the board last September. She demonstrated active commitment by joining both the Finance and the HR committees.

Yara brings a versatile set of skills to the team as she has experience in the public sector as well as the private sector, working for diverse institutions including micro-credits, Ministry of Finance, management consulting. Furthermore, Yara has a post-graduate degree in Development Economics, holds an MBA, has worked and lived in six countries across three continents, and speaks four languages fluently.

In addition to her academic and professional achievements in social and economic development, Yara has a track record of involvement in the third sector ranging from volunteering with the Scott Mission in their hot meals, bag lunches, food bank, meals-on-wheels, and clothing programs; to volunteering as a sailing companion for the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario, and being a founding member of the Lebanese Aids Society.

Therefore, Yara believes that serving on the Board of THCVS has been a smooth continuation of her natural inclination to contribute to the social development of the community she lives in and looks forward to the opportunity to carry on.

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2019 Meet our Board Members

Name: Jama Omar

Organisation: Somali Senior Citizens Club

Membership Type: Organisational Member

I have been resident of Tower Hamlet for the past 26 years and actively involved in community issues. I am currently a chairman of Somali Citizens Club (SSCC) an organisation which supports elderly residents in Tower Hamlets, particularly from the Somali Community.

Being a leader at the SSCC has taught me to take on challenges and make a positive contribution to change people's life, such as volunteering to represent a community organisation such as THCVS.

Recently, I have been a co-opted member of the THCVS Board, during which time I gained the experience needed to fulfil the necessary requirements to be a well-equipped Trustee. I hope that I have made some small contribution to the work of THCVS in the past year. In my time at SSCC and THCVS I have acquired the skills needed to contribute to the resolution of organisational issues such as staffing, project planning and other voluntary organisation issues.

As a member of THCVS Human Resources Committee, I believe I played a significant role in taking the organisation forward this year, preparing us for the future and producing positive outcomes for members. I regularly attend THCVS Forums such as the Premises Forum and always play an active constructive role in meetings and workshops organised by THCVS.

As a community activist, I believe that THCVS is and should be an umbrella to support and represent all sectors of the community and as a result would welcome the chance to be a part of that going forwards.

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2018 Meet our Board Members

Name: Mustafa Ibrahim

Organisation: Tower Hamlets Somali Organisations Network

Membership Type: Individual

Experience:

- I have extensive experience of being a trustee and currently service as trustee with THCVS and Black Women's Health and Family Services, over the past two years. AT Tower Hamlets Somali Organisations Network (THSON) I regularly chair meetings involving large a large number of members with differing needs and priorities. I have experience of setting agendas; facilitating discussion; managing conflict; prioritising issues; clarifying agreements and actions to be taken. Within my role as co-ordinator representing the needs of member organisations and developing terms of reference for the forum and its subgroups; proposing reporting structures; role descriptions for representatives and support workers; and guidance on development of action plans for the subgroups.
- I have 15 years experience working at a senior, strategic level within the voluntary sector. For 6 years I worked as a coordinator at THSON, a community centre providing a range of services, which promote the rights, independence, choice and inclusion for disabled people, including services for children.
- I am well experienced through my current role, as well as being chair of various forums and Trustee at THCVS, at developing long term strategic plans and shorter term targets and action plans with clear and specific priorities and realistic timeframes in order to balance conflicting needs and constraints. Through these roles I have gained a strong sense of teamwork, which is important when working in specialised teams. These experiences in working with others in a team involved planning, organising, co-ordinating and commitment. I have a strong personality; however, these working experiences have taught me to be open to new ideas and to respect difference.
- From my current position as CEO of THSON, as well as a Tower Hamlets Fairness Commissioner, Trustee at THCVS and chair of various forum, I have gained excellent written communication skills with extensive experience of report writing; development of policy and strategy documents, I can also communicate orally with a wide range of audiences, having worked extensively with colleagues at all professional levels and across sectors, with service users and the public.

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2018 Meet our Board Members

Name: Mohammad Rahman
Organisation: London Boi Mela
Membership Type: Organisational

I am a passionate individual with multidisciplinary and multicultural experience. I have sound academic and professional background in *Social Work, Finance, Business Management, Teaching, and Language studies*. I have gained a Masters in Finance and an MBA and Gained a Social Work qualification.

I strongly believe, with my experience and professional background, I can contribute to THCVS by actively taking part in the committee in carrying out various duties. I will follow all the rules, regulations and ethics to become a member of the committee to perform any duty with utmost sincerity and commitment. I feel this is my opportunity to show my commitment to become actively involved with the community to contribute even more than a citizen and extend my voluntary work that I have always been carrying out.

I have been working for last 15 plus years in the UK in the Social Work and Social Care sector in the Local Government and Third Sector. I have gained invaluable experience of working with multidisciplinary professionals and clients from different background. I have good and in-depth understanding of the Social Work processes and I am sure it can be transferred to other areas. I have worked as a professional in various Government and Third Sectors organizations in the UK and Bangladesh and I strongly believe that my knowledge and experience will add value to any organization.

I have the energy, enthusiasm and commitment to high standards of professional work to perform in line with organizational goals and objectives. Throughout my previous work practices, I have worked with commitment and integrity. I am self-motivated, dedicated and committed to maintain that in my duties with THCVS. I feel that the experience will be beneficial to me and enhance my learning which will help me to achieve professional and personal development. I am committed to the organization policy for equality and diversity. Thus I have confidently worked with people from all background and gained multicultural experience. I am committed to continue my work towards building a better society for all.