

THCVS Annual General Meeting 2022

Tuesday 25 April 2023, 1.30 to 3.00pm



Trustee Elections

Trustees standing for re-election

Chris Ley

Poplar & Limehouse Health network CIC



I would like to put myself forward to continue as a Trustee of the THCVS.

I have worked within the Voluntary, Charity or Public Sector for the past 36 years and I am in my 25th year here in Tower Hamlets. I am currently Network Director of the Poplar & Limehouse Health Network which is a Community Interest Company providing health and wellbeing initiatives working with GPs and community partners in Poplar, Limehouse. I also work as a director for the TH GP Care Group (the GP Federation in Tower Hamlets) and currently run the Healthy Island Partnership on the Isle of Dogs.

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) and as Chair of the National Association of Neighbourhood Management. I also have experience as a school Governor in East London. Through my involvement with these organisations I am aware of many aspects of charity law, company law and the legislation governing voluntary organisations.

During my 5 ½ years as a CVS Board Member, I have been involved in staff recruitment, strategic planning. I have also acted as Chair of the Finance Sub-committee and more recently as Vice Chair.

Should I be reselected as a Board Member, I would aim to continue to contribute to the CVS's future development, particularly as we support our voluntary organisations at this difficult time for the whole sector.

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Selena Uddin

Tower Hamlets Resident



Having served on the THCVS board for the past 5 years, I would welcome the opportunity to stand for re-election. I have worked in the voluntary and corporate social responsibility sector for over 15 years and have lived in the borough all my life.

I am currently the Social Impact Consultant at Royal London Group, a mutual insurance company. My role is to ensure our charity and social enterprise partnerships are impactful and of mutual benefit for all involved with particular focus on financial resilience for our partners. Before this role I was the Community Manager for the Broadgate Estate at property company British Land. The Broadgate estate, comprising of business and retail occupiers, is British Land's largest London campus spanning 33 acres and bordering Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Islington. My role was to connect with local schools, charities, and social enterprises to ensure local people benefit from all the opportunities across Broadgate. In 2022, I organised Broadgate's first ever Open Iftar with The Ramadan Tent Project, having over 200 local people attend and break fast together in a setting they wouldn't otherwise

venture into was a powerful moment.

In my previous role as Director of Community and Education at the East London Business Alliance (ELBA), I had the pleasure of working with several charity and voluntary organisations, from grassroot to national and with a range of focus and purpose. My role was to build connection and bring together businesses and local communities to add value and increase the capacity of the voluntary sector. In my time as trustee so far, I have been involved in the operations committee, membership working group, and more recently working with the CEO building on our governance; looking at our resources, strengths and where we can make further progress. This led to creating a different governance structure so that THCVS board can be more agile and reactive to the challenges we face. I hope to continue this work should I be re-elected.

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Trustee Elections

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Mike Smith

Individual Member



My name is Mike Smith and I have been the chief executive of Real for 13 years. Real is the user-led organisation of disabled people in Tower Hamlets. During that time I have taken the organisation through a merger, and tripled its size in terms of income and staff. Real support people with a range of impairments in long-term health conditions to achieve equal outcomes in life, there were range of different services and activities. It also provides coproduction work with local disabled people through its Engaging Disabled People project. Overall we reach over 2000 people each year. I am in the middle of transitioning to a new role as CEO of Disability Law Service which is a national legal advice service based in London (but not Tower Hamlets).

I have been on the board of Tower Hamlets CVS for 7 years, initially as a regular board member, previously as Treasurer, and I have been Chair for the last two years. I intend to step down as Chair, to bring new leadership and direction to the board, but also provide some historic knowledge and support to any new Chair. This will be my last period on the board if I am re-elected.

Prior to working in the not-for-profit sector I was a Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers. I'm a qualified chartered accountant, and have held roles covering auditing, corporation tax, policy setting and risk management. My last role at PwC was Director of Policy in Compliance, so I'm no stranger to the professional rigours of ensuring an organisation is compliant.

I have national not-for-profit experience, having been on the board of Stonewall (trustee), National Centre for Independent Living (trustee and Chair), and Disability Rights UK (trustee, treasurer and vice-chair). I led the governance work that created Disability Rights UK out of the merger of three other organisations and am very familiar with the practical issues around memorandum and articles of association and ensuring charity operates within its charitable objectives.

I've also had governance roles in the public sector: I was a statutory Disability Committee member for the newly-formed Equality and Human Rights Commission, and later became a full Commissioner for a three-year period. In addition to sitting on its board and overseeing the work programmes and

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Trustee Elections

Trustees standing for re-election

Mike Smith (cont.)

governance of a £60 million NDPB, I sat on its Regulatory Committee which oversaw which legal and statutory interventions we took. I'm used to making pragmatic decisions based on evidence (in very long reports!), and ensuring that organisations continue to work towards their strategic objectives and that those objectives remain relevant to the wider purpose of the organisation. In my public sector roles I've already demonstrated that I can work to the Nolan principles.

During my time at the EHRC I led the formal evidence sessions for the commission's enquiry into sex discrimination in the financial services sector, and then subsequently was Lead Commissioner on the 18 month statutory disability hate crime inquiry, resulting in the "Hidden in Plain Sight" report. I now sit on the government's Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime. I am therefore used to working with a wide variety of audiences and appropriately flexing my style to meet their needs.

As a qualified chartered accountant I'm more than used to dealing with organisational finances, and the oversight of them.

At a personal level I've lived in the borough for over 25 years and have no intention of moving. I love our vibrant community and all of its diversity. I represent some of that diversity myself, as a gay disabled man. I can easily manage the time commitment set out in the role description. I'm interested to join the board of the CVS to ensure that the work of this important sector is properly supported and connected, and together we have the maximum chance of meeting the communities we serve.