

SHARED LIVES APPROVAL PANEL

Cathy Toole

(BA (Hons) Dip S/W, NLP Master Practitioner, ITEC)

Panel Chair



Cathy has chaired the Shared Lives South West Approval Panel for 3 years.

Prior to this, she spent most of her careers in the social work environment, latterly as an Adult Placement Officer in Oxfordshire Adult Placement team. She has interspersed this work with many training projects, in both social work and commercial sectors.

She is a qualified social worker, and also holds qualifications in holistic massage, meditation and personal development.

Nicola Crawford

Panel Member



Nicola has been a classroom teacher and Head of Department in Education for 23 years; she retired from teaching in 2004. Nicola joined Shared Lives South West as a panel member because she wanted to continue to use her skills during her retirement. Nicola has dealt with a wide range of students of different ability and from different backgrounds, allowing her to make decisions based on facts but with empathy for those involved. She also works as a volunteer advisor for Citizens Advice and specialises in Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance.

Janice Ginn

Panel Member



Janice is married with 4 children and 3 grandchildren. She lives in Marlborough. She gained her degree and teaching qualification at Greenwich University and worked for 12 years in Kent and Plymouth at FE colleges teaching adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. For the last 5 years before she retired, she worked at Adult and Community colleges in Kingsbridge and Totness teaching Life Skills, ICT, Literacy and

Numeracy.

To help keep in touch with her students after she retired she volunteered to help run the Kingsbridge Gateway Club which provides a monthly social club for adults with learning difficulties. It was through the club that she heard about Shared Lives South West and has thoroughly enjoyed being a panel member since 2009.



Daniel Fitzgerald

Panel Member

Dan has worked in residential care for the past 10 years. While having experience of clients with learning disabilities and autism, the majority of his time have been with people who have enduring mental illnesses. For the past 5 years Dan has been Deputy Home Manager of a unit for 10 residents, working closely with the Rehabilitation & Recovery Service of Devon Partnership NHS Trust in supporting people towards optimum quality of life and levels of independence. Dan has considerable experience of working with clients for whom Shared Lives South West can provide an alternative to more communal arrangements. He understands the adjustment and negotiations which all parties have to make for an adult placement to be successful.

Jill Masters

Panel Member

Jill has been a panel member since 2007 and feels privileged to be a volunteer for Shared Lives South West.

Jill lives in Kingsteignton, Devon, with her husband. They have two children, one lives locally, the other in Australia. Jill was employed by Devon County Council (Social Services) as a Community Care Worker. Her responsibilities were to act as generic duty officer each morning and in the afternoons to contact by phoning or visiting clients, review their care packages or assess the needs of new clients. Prior to this, Jill supervised a team of Home Care Assistants at Social Services. Earlier, she was employed by Teignbridge District Council supervising the Emergency Alarm Telephone Centre, installing the phone alarms in their homes and testing "wired in" systems on non-warden sites.

Before entering local government service, Jill was a senior receptionist at a local GP surgery. She has also fostered and been a link parent.

Sally Palmer

Panel Member



Sally's professional background is in teaching, initially in Primary but mainly in Further Education. Her Master's degree is in Adult Continuing Education and she has been involved in Prison Education. In college settings, Sally has worked with adults with learning and physical disabilities teaching literacy, numeracy and life skills. She has also worked in residential settings with people who have been moving from Homes to live in the community, both before and after their move. Self-advocacy has been a major interest and she has worked with groups, as an enabler, to help individuals develop these skills.



Sally's husband works for the Met Office, which re-located to Exeter. At this stage she moved into educational administration and currently works part-time for Torbay Council Special Educational Needs section. This involves contact with schools, parents, problem solving and multi-agency working. Personally, her husband and Sally have fostered and adopted three boys. The youngest of whom is now 20 and has Down's syndrome. When they lived in Reading she co-ordinated a post adoption group. At present Sally helps with a social group for young adults with special needs, which is linked to the church they belong to.

Caroline Stewart

Panel Member



Caroline lives in Plymouth with her husband, two teenage children, one dog and two cats. She has worked as a residential care worker with adults who have learning disabilities for about nine years. Caroline works for the Durnford Society part-time and also does agency work for Plymouth City Council in the Learning Disability respite units. She has experience of various levels of learning and physical disabilities.

Caroline is relatively new to the approval panel, having never done anything like it before.

Mabs Hunt

Panel Member



Mabs's experience and career in the NHS and Social Services has most recently been at operational management level in Community Services within the Child, Adult and Older Persons Sectors. She has been involved in setting up a number of new initiatives in both organisations working in partnership with other professionals from a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies. Mabs was formerly a trustee for Shared Lives South West.

Phil Le Houx

Panel Member



Phil was widowed in 2002 after 45 years of marriage. He has two children and six grandchildren. Phil retired from the Royal Navy in 1976 after serving 27 years.

Phil joined the panel in 2007. He has worked as a supervisor in an Adult training centre for people with learning disabilities. He is a qualified youth leader and has fostered adults with learning disabilities under the parent relief scheme. He has been a foster parent and has worked continuously for people with learning disabilities for over thirty years. He has been Chairman of the Kingsbridge Gateway club since 2007.

Clive Wilson
Panel Member



Clive is a retired Civil Servant. Most of his career was in the Department of Health, but he also worked on secondment in the voluntary sector (with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations– NCVO) from 1992 to 1995 and for the Ombudsman (1995 –1998).

On retiring from the Civil Service, he worked in the House of Commons until moving to Devon in 2000 where he is active in village life, especially amateur dramatics. He is married with two grown-up daughters. Clive is the chairman of the board of trustees for Shared Lives South West.

Robin Tolson
Panel Member



Robin is a QC practicing across the Western Circuit and in London, specialising in all aspects of law relating to children and families as well as public and administrative law. He is a former leader of the Western Circuit and a deputy judge of the High Court.

He has two daughters. In his spare time he runs with his dog (a flat coated retriever called Ben) and is mad about, but bad at, all kinds of sport. He supports Hull City football club; a legacy of being born and brought up in Yorkshire. Robin is a trustee for Shared Lives South West.