



**Alan Alvis**  
**Chief Executive, Croydon Mencap**

As CEO of Mencap I am directly informed of the needs, wishes and aspirations of people with learning disabilities, their families, and carers. I chair the Learning Disability Forum (comprising of people with learning disabilities, carers, and community representatives) that meets regularly to consider issues of importance to people with learning disabilities. I am regularly involved with groups that are influential in developing national policy. This places me in a good position to be a VCS Rep, as well as a good conduit to give feedback and information to the wider VCS membership. I am currently a VCS Rep on the Learning Disability Partnership Board and would like to be re-elected to continue in this role.



**Anna Orridge**  
**Media Co-ordinator & Member of Green Peace Croydon**

I have a long history of environmental activism. Currently, I am the local media co-ordinator for Green Peace Croydon and a member of the Atwood Green Team (a parent's group involved in reviewing and rolling out viable and appropriate green projects in line with the national Eco-Schools initiative).



**Adrian Samuda**  
CEO, Get Me To Work

‘Get Me To Work’ is a social enterprise that partners with local colleges, training providers and young offender centres. We support young adult offenders/re-offenders with job training, to learn new skills and to obtain employment. I believe through the process of sharing knowledge and talking to like-minded people with the same vision, we can bring a positive change to the borough of Croydon. I am currently a VCS Rep on the Offender Management Programme Board and would like to be re-elected for 2021-2023.



**Ben Taylor**  
Co-Founder & Committee Member, Croydon Covid19 Mutual Aid

Croydon COVID-19 Mutual Aid (CCMA) is a network of local mutual aid groups operating in the London borough of Croydon. We are helping residents through the Covid-19 pandemic by carrying out simple tasks, such as collecting shopping and medication, dog-walking, checking on neighbours and providing moral support. CCMA is also working with Croydon Voluntary Action, food banks, charities and Croydon Council to make sure all who need help during this crisis get it. I believe residents should feel safe, secure and listened to. Since moving to Croydon, I have been actively involved in the local community. This has given me the opportunity to engage with, and learn from those who put the safety and security of their community as their number one objective.



### **Claire Keetch**

**Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Croydon**

**Co-founder of an Anti Poverty Alliance**

**Member of a Homelessness Forum**

I am a passionate advocate for social justice and the power of the voluntary sector. I influence, shape and deliver services to the most vulnerable members of our communities. Having worked in the Voluntary Sector for 22 years, 20 of those years have been dedicated to the Citizens Advice service. I have gained a wide knowledge of the issues affecting people's lives, and of the statutory and voluntary sector services that support them. I have (in other areas of the UK) played an active part in the VCS representing the voluntary sector on the Health and Wellbeing Board. I co-founded an Anti-Poverty Alliance and was a founder trustee of a Women's Centre. I am also part of a Homelessness Forum and Probation Strategy Group.



### **Dan Cudmore**

**Health Partnerships Manager, Cancer Research UK**

I currently lead a health partnership with Tesco that aims to change the health of the nation through a healthier lifestyle and shopping choices. In my spare time, I run Delta Charlie Community. This is a small 'consultancy' supporting community and VCS organisations through funding applications, training and workshops. As Croydon Council's Active Lifestyles Service Programme Manager, I gained first-hand knowledge of the challenges community groups face particularly for health and wellbeing. I managed funding pots and developed sports and community clubs through workshops and training for London Sport. As Croydon Council's Sports Development Assistant & Coach, I managed and delivered Croydon RAP sessions to young people with disabilities. I want to make a change through my voice. With my skills and experience, I feel I can represent the voluntary community sector well.



### **Elaine Joseph**

**Founder of iiChild, Working with Southwark Violent Crime Unit,  
Former Teacher, Foster Parent & Children's Author**

iiChild was founded in response to seeing young people wandering around the local council estates, without meals or direction during the school holidays. As a charitable organisation we seek to redress the balance of social mobility by creating fun learning projects for disadvantaged children. For the past 9 years, during the school holidays we provide up to 80 children with meals, snacks, and trips/activities free of charge. I am a former teacher and foster parent. I have published a children's book, the Dreamstealer and a manual to help and guide children and young people (particularly those in foster care) through the challenges they face. I have spoken in Brussels and the House of Parliament on the topic of Child Poverty. I also work with the Southwark Violent Crime Unit regarding the support that young people need.



### **Elsie Sutherland**

**Retired Social Worker, Health Watch Advisor,  
Safeguarding Children Partnership & L&D Programme Member**

Since retirement, I have continued to influence to have a voice in the community and to influence the delivery and design of local services. I believe in collaboration, bringing everyone together to make things work better for those who need it. I am a Health Watch Advisor, influencing delivery and design of local services by gathering patient views and experience, a Social Prescribing Group Volunteer (this programme gives people the opportunity to better manage their own health and wellbeing), a Safeguarding Children Partnership L&D Programme member, a GP Patient Participation Group Member and a Croydon One Alliance champion. I have previously served as a school governor (13.5 yrs) at a special educational needs school in Lewisham. I believe I can represent the VCS sector well using my skills and experience.



### **Geraldine O'Shea**

**Director of Croydon People First**

**Co-Chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board**

I am the Director of Croydon People First, a charity run by and for adults with learning disabilities. We run projects which help people with learning disabilities to be independent, to have a voice, to empower them to achieve their goals and to be part of the community. I have been co-chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board for the past 4 years and would be happy to be re-elected to continue as a VCS Rep for this board in 2021-2023.



### **Grace Onions**

**Soroptimists International Croydon and District**

**Qualified Environmental Conservationist**

**Member Croydon Friends of the Earth**

With a background in Environmental Conservation, I have worked with many local and national NGOs since qualifying to include; Friends of the Earth, Fairtrade Foundation, International Otter Survival Fund, Women's Environmental Network and Croydon Real Nappy Network. I have worked in partnership with, and engaged with staff and volunteers from different sectors (conservation volunteers, parent/teacher groups in both junior and senior schools and Croydon Council). I was recently co-opted as VCS Rep on the newly formed Croydon Climate Crisis Commission, Adaption & Nature-Based Approaches subgroup. I would like to be formally elected as VCS Rep to continue in this role.



**Hale Own**  
Local Artist & Art Teacher

I have enjoyed serving and contributing as the VCS Representative on the Autism Partnership Board and the Autism Strategy subgroup. I would like to be re-elected as a VCS Rep for 2021-2023 so that I can continue representing on this board.



**Ian Morris**  
Secretary, Sustainable Thornton Heath  
Member of Friends of the Earth, XR & Transition Town

Sustainable Thornton Heath is an unincorporated association that aims to help Thornton Heath and its residents to be more sustainable. This group has contributed to local initiatives such as 'Croydon Green Recovery' and 'Shaping Thornton Heath'. I am also involved with other local community groups that focus on the environment and community (Friends of the Earth, XR and Transition Town). I am passionate about sustainability and the environment, and my family and I dedicate significant amounts of our time to increase our knowledge in this area. We actively aim to reduce our own impact on the environment and encourage others to do likewise. My background and education are in engineering and management. I have over 20 years' experience in international development, fairtrade and environmental issues in the private, charity and social enterprise sectors. I am currently the VCS Rep for the recently formed Croydon Climate Crisis Commission and wish to be re-elected to continue in this role for 2021-2023.





**Jane Carey**

**Founder & Manager, Jubilee Parenting**

Supporting families in Croydon since 2002, Jubilee Parenting remains committed to ensuring the very best outcomes for each child. We have a proven track record of advocacy, courses, workshops and weekly support groups that empower parents and significantly improve outcomes for children, including those with additional needs. Croydon Council has commissioned Jubilee Parenting services for over 10 years. The emotional Well-being of both parents and children is our priority. It is the foundation on which a family stands. A bit of timely support given to a family can turn around a situation. It is better to build a strong foundation than try to repair things later, although we know repair is always possible. We have always supported young families and have seen the devastating impact of poverty first hand. I have supported voluntary sector furniture projects, debt counselling and helped homeless families to be rehoused.



**Joe Duggan**

**Co-Chair, Crystal Palace Transition Town (CPTT)**

**Trustee at Transition Network (TN)**

**Co-Founder and Member of London Transition Hub**

I am an experienced community facilitator, an ex-primary school teacher and a member of the Climate Commission Engagement Working Group. I feel I have much to offer as a VCS representative for the CCCC Awareness and Engagement subgroup. I have co-chaired Crystal Palace Transition Town (CPTT) for almost 10 yrs and I have a strong success story in sustainable community development (Crystal Palace Food Market, Library of Things, a network of community gardens, and other smaller projects). As a co-founder of London Transition Hub, I have also helped set up support structures for other sustainable projects. Climate change is already affecting us and this will increase in the future. I am committed to climate action and I passionately feel that this issue must bring communities along with them. I believe CPTT has been successful in creating a sustainable narrative to draw people in from outside the green community.



### **John Clingan**

**Chair, South Croydon Community Association**

**Committee Member, Croydon Covid19 Mutual Aid**

I have been responsible for communications (newsletters, emails and database management) for various non-profit organisations in Croydon: South Croydon Community Association, Croydon Transition Town & Croydon Extinction Rebellion. I'm also a member of, and involved with the Croydon Covid19 Mutual Aid (supporting residents through the Covid-19 pandemic). I have retired from work to focus on community-related activities.



### **Leonie Osborne**

**Chair, Croydon Friends of the Earth**

**Member of the CCCC Awareness & Engagement Working Group**

I am passionate about improving the environment and believe Croydon Council's ambition to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030 can only be achieved by developing sustainable communities. I am proud to be Chair of Croydon Friends of the Earth, we work with individuals and voluntary groups raising awareness of, and engagement in projects and campaigns to secure a safer climate. This will enable nature to flourish, and for the provision of healthy air, water and food for the next generation. Having previously served on the CCCC, Awareness and Engagement working group, I have demonstrated my commitment to engage in the Croydon planning and development process, whilst working with others and engaging in research to develop the group's recommendations to the Commissioning Board. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as VCS Representative on the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission.





### **Linda Nicholas**

**Trustee/Chair to Board of Trustees, Woodside Bereavement Service  
Team Leader for a Homeless Support Group**

As HR Staff Wellbeing Lead and Mental Health Ambassador (for a London council), I deliver projects to support the workforce strategy. These include apprenticeship programmes, employee counselling, occupational health and challenging inequalities. I have previously held senior HR roles in the Metropolitan Police and the House of Lords. I am good at building and maintaining relationships at all levels and have strong communication skills, presenting papers to members, corporate boards and other meetings. I am a team leader in a local Homeless support group. I am keen to use my skills, experience as a VCS Representative to the benefit of the Children & Young People EWMH Partnership and Youth Crime Board.



### **Lucy Pleass**

**Director of Operations, Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid**

Passionately committed to ending violence against women and girls, I have worked in the domestic abuse sector for 14 years. Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid has worked for over 40 years to tackle domestic abuse in the local community. As a survivor of domestic abuse, I strongly believe that I can bring knowledge and understanding of the dynamics and complexity of domestic abuse to this board. Along with other professionals sharing the same vision, we can bring about the change we need, enabling survivors' voices to be heard to make a real difference. Bromley & Croydon WA understands the importance that the voluntary sector plays in developing long-term and effective domestic abuse services, which are truly tailored to survivors' needs. Acting as an advocate in this forum is a great opportunity for the voluntary sector to be represented. I am the VCS Rep on the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Committee and wish to be re-elected for this role for 2021-23.



### **Magdalene Adenaike**

**Founder & CEO, Music Relief Foundation**

I am passionate about the work Music Relief Foundation does around young people, their safety, wellbeing and their sense of self-worth. As a governor of a local school, I have continuously shown my passion and have been very vocal about the safety and wellbeing of young people. Driven by my own personal experience of being a teenage parent 21 years ago, I wish to make sure that young people are guided and have opportunities to have their voices heard in a constructive and productive way. I have served as VCS Rep on the Youth Crime Board for the past 2 years and would like to continue to contribute and explore ways to reduce youth crime.



### **Marian Hoffman**

**Treasurer/Steering Group Member, Sustainable Thornton Heath**

My interest is in how we can achieve change in transport and energy provision and demand. Before moving to Thornton Heath two years ago, I was an active member of Wandsworth Green Party and Transition Town Wandsworth. I am currently on the steering group of Sustainable Thornton Heath, our aim is to raise awareness of climate change and promoting sustainable solutions in daily life. I am particularly interested in finding ways to achieve public acceptance of sustainable solutions where they entail a change in circumstances (e.g. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods) or behaviour (e.g. walking, not driving to school). Since renewables all have some drawbacks we should continue to reduce demand with schemes such as '15-minute towns' and software that programs light and heating in large buildings.



### **Maxine Grant**

**Nurse, Axa insurance & Founder of 'Parenthood' Group**

Through my nursing experience in A&E and Sexual Health Clinics I have supported children and young people with issues such as teenage pregnancy, self-harming, mental illness, substance abuse, sexual abuse, depression and eating disorders. Many of these young people rely heavily on the support of community care services, as they are unable to discuss issues that directly affect their emotional wellbeing and mental health at home. As a clinical team leader in both male and female prisons, I identified that for many prisoners it was their childhood experiences that led them to become vulnerable adults. I was previously involved in a committee where we considered the health and wellbeing of children and young people whose mothers were in prison, making sure appropriate support was in place. During the Covid-19 lockdown, I have established the 'Parenthood' group, creating a safe space for parents to learn from each other, also providing them with the opportunity to have important discussions with their children.



### **Nana Akoto**

**Health Promotion Officer**

I am a health promotion officer and I am passionate about the health and wellbeing of the people within our community. I have delivered workshops to raise awareness of health issues, particularly in mental health and wellbeing. I also support young people in care, to enable them to fulfill their duties at home and to generally help them in their personal development to improve their focus, drive and interactivity. I am the VCS Rep on the Carers Partnership Board and I am seeking re-election to continue in 2021-2023.



**Pam Flouch**

**Service Manager, Croydon Community Mediation**

Croydon Community Mediation assists in the resolution of conflict situations arising between neighbours resident within the Borough of Croydon and provides training in conflict resolution for the purpose of alleviating distress created by conflict. I am currently the VCS Rep on the Safer Croydon Partnership Anti-social Behaviour & Environmental Crime subgroup and I am seeking re-election for 2021-22.



**Patricia Knight**

**Board Member Healthwatch Croydon**

**Member of Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP)**

As a board member of Healthwatch Croydon (HWC) I attend the Croydon Health & Wellbeing Board and Carers Partnership meetings and contributed to the implementation of the Croydon Carers strategy. I am a member of the Carers Information Centre and represent HWC on the Croydon Dementia Action Alliance. Having been a carer myself I have an understanding of the demands and restrictions carers' and their families can experience. I am keen to see improvements and support to reduce the impact on the physical and mental health of those who care. I was a member of the MVP board for sometime before being elected as a VCS Representative in 2018. My interest is in the patient experience and in ways of accessing patients' views. I have very much enjoyed representing on the MVP board and bringing about change. I am seeking re-election for 2021 -2023, so that I may continue in this role.



### **Peter Stanley**

**Director Ment4**

**Founder Parental Army & Stop the Traffik**

**UKHTC National Prevention Manager**

For ten years I have run Croydon's specialist mentoring team, Ment4, supporting teenagers involved in crime, abuse, exclusions and vulnerable to trauma. I have worked with a number of Council officers and have represented the voluntary sector on boards for several years. I also founded the 'Parental Army' (a group of organisations that support families affected by trauma and crisis) and I also help lead Croydon Youth Localities Partnership. I was also previously involved in leading anti-slavery campaigns and global commercial risk management and founding member of the International Anti-Trafficking Group. My passion is to see the voluntary sector recognised for their devotion and expertise and to help them to work well with the local authority. I am seeking re-election to continue as VCS representative on both the Vulnerable Adolescent Priority Group and Youth Crime Board during 2021-23.



### **Philippa Thompson**

**Chief Executive, Mind in Croydon**

I have worked in the voluntary sector in London and Sussex for over 15 years, in children's services, advocacy, disability, mental health and housing. My proudest moment was being selected as a non-disabled person to be CEO at a user-led disability charity in Sussex. This experience has helped me to learn what it really means to be co-productive and representative of a wide range of lived experiences. I was the voluntary sector representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board in West Sussex from 2016 -2019. I am deeply committed to ensuring that the voice of the sector is effectively heard and influential in decision-making about health and wellbeing across the Borough, that it can lead in the development of strategic partnerships, and can hold policymakers and commissioners to account.





**Raymond Bascombe**  
Founder, Ballers Club Community

I am a confident communicator and with the ability to debate effectively without bias. I grew up participating in youth-related crime but was fortunate enough to turn this negative outlook into a positive one by creating a successful community organisation. I now support over 60 young people on a sports/mentoring basis. I can identify closely with the issues young people face and I am able to base opinions from a young person's point of view. I am a VCS Rep on the Vulnerable Adolescent Priority Group and seek re-election so that I can continue to help shape the future for young people. I also feel I have the background, knowledge and experience to be a representative on the Youth Crime Board.



**Rhona Kenny**  
Croydon Drop In, Head of Therapeutic Services

As the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Croydon Drop In (CDI) I am responsible for ensuring that the agency policies and protocols stay current, comply with the latest legislation, and delivered in the spirit of best practice. I continue to update on safeguarding training and have completed the briefing on Contextual Safeguarding, which recognises that as young people grow and develop, they connect and are influenced by a whole range of environments outside of the family home(s) such as in school or college, in the local community, in their peer groups or online. It is important for those in contact with young people to understand the types of risks they may be exposed to and what a contextual safeguarding approach to those risks may look like. I am a VCS Rep on Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership and seek re-election to continue in this role for 2021-2023.





**Sara Mohamed**  
Cassandra Centre

I volunteer for various grassroots community projects. I particularly support a local Domestic Violence voluntary organisation that has helped Domestic Violence survivors for over 10 years. I am very keen to represent VCS on this board because I want to collaborate and be part of breaking through the silence of Domestic Abuse and to tackle Domestic Violence in the early stages to prevent more serious issues from happening. I am a strong believer that working with and supporting offenders breaks the circle of offences from happening again.



**Simone Frazier**  
Founder of the Wellness School London  
Mindfulness Practitioner Accredited Leadership  
Personal Development Coach

Wellness School London is a modern space of wellness, where people can rediscover and align with self-esteem as the catalyst for transformative change in their lives. Inspired by my daughter being diagnosed with Trichotillomania, I am passionate about catering to the needs of young people who want to live healthier, stronger and more vibrant lives. I am an accredited Leadership & Development Coach, coaching across different sectors (corporate, voluntary housing, parental and youth mediation) including projects to transform communities. I am also a mindfulness practitioner and international speaker and member of the Public Speaking Association, London.



### **Stefanie Burgess-Bryan**

**Domestic Abuse Outreach Officer, Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid**

I work in the area of social welfare of women and mental health. My ultimate aims and focus are to help change the lives of women and girls that have experienced emotional or physical trauma using the creative arts. My wish is to help with the cohesion of services set up to aid vulnerable women in the borough of Croydon, by building greater confidence in these services so that those most in need can freely access them. There is a plethora of great projects and services being delivered across the borough for vulnerable women. I would like to make sure that they are sustained, successfully accessed and working together productively to bring a lasting change in the community.



### **Susan Taylor**

**NSPCC Accredited Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Specialist Tailormade Training**

'The best way to safeguard children is to educate the adults around them.' I want to be the voice of the voluntary sector who at the moment are under represented yet work with very vulnerable children. Unlike schools with big teams of senior leaders devising robust policies and procedures, the voluntary sector does not. We have to acknowledge this gap and attempt to redress the balance whilst rewriting the rules around the important part learning and development plays in keeping children safe. When children receive a late SEND diagnosis they already feel different, rejected, overwhelmed, misunderstood and are without access to specialist, targeted support. Many will have been excluded from formal education and their life chances avoidably compromised. We must do more to raise awareness and understanding of SEND to be in a position for children's needs to be identified early and the 'assess, plan, do and review' cycle to commence. I currently sit on Croydon's Autism Partnership board and have a personal interest in this area as I have 2 children both with SEND.

Video link: <https://t.co/FXSO2ejZsU?amp=1>



**Teresa Minondo**  
Development Team Administrator City & Guilds Group

I am an active member of the community, with a particular interest in youth and climate change. I am passionate about keeping the parks clean, especially by organising litter activities and awareness activities. I am also interested in the work of the COP26 for the Net-Zero Transition. I have worked for the City & Guilds Group for over 5 years. I have recently moved to development, where my team develops land base qualifications. I have put a lot of work in over the years to make connections across the local area, and I would be delighted to serve as a VCS Representative.



**Tim Bellenger**  
Director, Policy & Investigation, London TravelWatch

I am a member of Crystal Palace Transition Town and a professional transport planner for London TravelWatch (an organisation representing the interests of transport users). I have extensive experience in setting up and managing voluntary organisations in the transport sector, such as local railway station adoption and bus user groups. I am a project board member for the Crystal Palace Community Land Trust and have come up with sustainable transport solutions to allow for the provision of affordable housing.



**Tim Coombe**  
Croydon XR Member

I have been a member of the advisory panel on the Croydon Climate Change Citizens Assembly. I have a good knowledge of the science of Climate Change. Where I lack in-depth knowledge in a specific topic, I have the drive and ability to research and find best practice to be an effective, informed contributor and representative.



**Tracey Hague**  
Sutton & Croydon Green Party  
Friends of Addiscombe Railway Park

I served on the Local Involvement Network (LINK) for four years, including three years on the Scrutiny sub-committee & one year on the Maternity Services Liaison Committee. I am a mother of two and a Beaver Scout Leader. I have a knack for doing activities on a shoestring, explaining complex issues to a range of audiences & seeing multiple sides to every situation by imagining myself in other people's shoes. I also fight for the underdog, for justice and am not afraid to ask challenging questions to get the answers required. I am the co-ordinator of SCGP and the founder member of FARP.



### **Venessa Bobb**

Director, A2ndvoice

Chair of National Autism Society (Lambeth Branch)

Member of Croydon Safeguarding Children with Disabilities Priority Group,

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Autism Advisory Group &

Lambeth Autism Action Forum

A2ndvoice aims to bridge the gap between grassroots and corporate groups meeting the needs of the autistic community and their families. Supported by a local charity I offer advice/support for youth, parents and professionals looking at a range of topics around grooming, keeping safe and mentoring programs. I am a mother of three children, the two youngest are diagnosed with Autism and ADHD. I am co-author of the book 'Girls and Autism'. I have been a guest speaker on BBC and Premier Radio and National Autistic Conferences and featured in Sunday Times Magazine, Voice Newspaper and the Guardian.