

## **Leicester Youth Justice Management Board**

### **Membership October 2023 –**

#### **Chair of the Board – Martin Samuels Strategic Director, Social Care & Education, Leicester City Council**



- Martin has spent the past decade working in a number of Local Authorities at Director and Strategic Director level, always with responsibilities across adults and children's services.
- His route to that point was rather non-traditional, as He began his working career as a civil servant, initially working in job centres and then moving to Whitehall, before then transferring to the NHS, where He undertook roles at national, regional, and local level. This experience has underlined to Martin the importance of different sectors being able to work together, with the individual member of the public at the centre of all we do – integrated working, rather than structural integration.
- As the statutory Director of Children's Services for Leicester, Martin has lead responsibility for ensuring the overall wellbeing of children and young people in the City, under the political direction of Cllr Sarah Russell in her role as statutory Lead Member for Children's Services.

## **Damian Elcock – Director of Children’s Social Care and Community Safety**



- Damian has worked in Childrens Services across the East Midlands and East England for the last 25 years starting as a Children’s Home Manager and then front-line social worker.
- Damian has recently joined Leicester after 4 years as Service Director for Children Social Care and Improvement, and was also the lead director for Youth Justice and Contextual Safeguarding.
- He also has extensive experience as an Improvement Lead supporting inadequate Children’s Services departments through the Sector Led Improvement programme.

## **Karen Manville Head of Service Prevention and Safer Communities**



Karen was appointed as Head of Service for Early Help and Prevention in April 2021 , which was further expanded to incorporate Community safety in October 2022 and renamed as Head of Service for Prevention and Safer Communities. Prior to that she was the Service Manager for the City Youth Offending Service from 2009. She has worked in youth justice since 2001 when she left teaching, after 7 years, to work with young people that are at risk or entrenched in offending. She led on developing one of the first alternative to custody programmes, the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme, in the country and sat on the Youth Justice Board working group for this flagship programme and helped support the roll out nationally.

Karen oversees all services within Prevention and safer Communities with a key aim to prevent escalation of behaviours that can lead children, young people and vulnerable adults to become more entrenched in services and provide holistic support to the whole family utilising the range of offers available both within our range of services and externally across the partnership.

She has been a member of the board for many years since taking up the service manager position in 2009.

## **Jim Hatton - Detective Chief Inspector**



Jim is currently Detective Supt for the Violent & Complex Crime Unit.

My portfolio area's are: -

- Complex Investigations
- Offender Management including IOM & MOSOVO
- Serious Violence Prevention
- Lead for C&YP Strategy
- Youth Justice

## **Grace Strong -Director of the Violence Reduction Network**



Grace has worked in Probation Services for over 20 years in a wide range of settings as a practitioner, team manager and senior leader. This includes leading a range of multi-agency projects including the Prolific and Priority Offender Management Scheme, Integrated Offender Management, a non-statutory Resettlement Team, the Young Adult Project (YAP!) and an Accommodation partnership. Grace is currently seconded into the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as the Director for the local Violence Reduction Network (VRN) which is one of 18 Home Office funded Units across England and Wales. Grace has a particular interest in developmental maturity and the transition into adulthood and trauma-informed practice. Grace is working closely with Youth Justice services in relation to prevention and early intervention and in preparing for the new Serious Violence legal duty.

**Sarah Hancock-Smith, Senior Operations Manager for Turning Point Substance Misuse Services**



Sarah is responsible for the substance misuse services across LLR which includes the substance misuse services for Young People including linked to CYPJS. She has managed substance misuse services in LLR for the last 13 years and prior to that was a Probation Officer. The deputy who will attend in her absence is Andrea Knowles, Operations Manager

**Andrea Knowles. Turning Point Operations Manager**



Andrea Has worked in Drug and alcohol treatment services in Leicester since 2001. During this time Andrea has had a number of roles including Drug Practitioner, Women's lead, and Manager. Andrea has worked as an Operations Manager for Turning Point since 2016 and is the Registered CQC manager and Designated safeguarding officer.

As Operations Manager Andrea manages all of the operational teams in Leicester City, including City Drugs, City Alcohol, YP/YA team, and Rough Sleepers team. As CQC Registered Manager Andrea is also responsible for ensuring the quality of the operational and clinical service provided and safeguarding all of the staff and service users attached to the team. Andrea works with partners across statutory and voluntary sectors to promote the importance of drug and alcohol treatment interventions and to support best outcomes for all.

**Sophie Maltby. Principle Education Officer**



Sophie has been a teacher for 25 years. In schools She worked as Senior Leader, Behaviour Lead and SENCo. Worked for SEND Support since 2006, initially in Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Team, supporting CYP at risk of exclusion from schools as well as whole school development work and training around SEMH needs. Additionally, worked as SENCO and Teacher in Charge of the Primary PRU. For the last 10 years Sophie has undertaken several leadership roles within SEND Support. Currently Head of SEND Support with responsibility for all of the specialist teaching teams and specialist nursery, alongside strategic SEND responsibilities.

Head of SEND Support Service, managing 6 specialist teaching teams and a specialist nursery, working from 0-25 in schools, colleges, early years settings and homes. She is also responsible for the development of Designated Specialist Provisions (DSPs) the SEND Capital programme and reviewing SEND funding in both mainstream and special schools. Sophie works very closely with the Principal Education Officer to support schools and various strategic projects such as inclusion, SEND, mental health work and trauma Informed practice.

**Kayleigh Lord - the Clinical Team Leader for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Young Peoples Team**



Kayleigh Lord is the Clinical Team Leader for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Young Peoples Team, we are a team who specialise in working with young people aged 0-18 years who are looked after, adopted, youth offending, homeless or unaccompanied asylum seeking young people in LLR.

By profession she is a mental health nurse and have worked within LPT for the past 10 years. She is passionate about young people's mental health and improving services and access to services.

Within YPT they have the Adverse Childhood Experiences Project and a specialist CAMHS nurse embedded within our team who work closely with Youth Justice.

**Laura French Consultant in Public Health at Leicester City Council**



Laura French is a Consultant in Public Health at Leicester City Council where her portfolio includes Children and Young People's Public Health, Sexual Health, NHS Health Checks and Health in All Policies/Wider Determinants. She also has an interest in communicable disease control and outbreak management. She has previously worked with children and young people as a peer educator and later team leader for a sexual health charity, before qualifying as a doctor in 2009. After a period working abroad in emergency medicine and trauma, she trained in obstetrics and gynaecology for some years before changing to train in public health medicine in the East Midlands. She is passionate about tackling health inequalities and working to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Leicester.





**Bob Bearne - Head of Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Delivery Unit  
(deputy Chair of the Board)**



Worked in the Probation Service since 1985, initially as a residential worker. Qualified as a Probation Officer in 1988 and have worked across most Probation settings as a practitioner and manager

The Probation Service is a statutory partner of the Board, a financial contributor and has staff seconded into the Youth Service. As well as general oversight and governance of the Youth Service, Bob has a particular role to play around Transition to adult criminal justice services. He also Chair the LLR Strategic Offender Management and MAPPA Board which has many priorities closely aligned to that of the Youth Justice Services and the HOS of EH and P sits on this board.

**Brian Bodsworth – Service Manager for Youth and Children and Young Peoples Justice Service**



Brian qualified as a Youth and Community worker in the mid 1990's and for the remainder of the decade worked in a secure homes and custodial establishments for young people. In 1998 He joined the newly launched Youth Offending Service in Northamptonshire as a seconded Youth and Community worker and was responsible for establishing group and community programmes to prevent offending. For ten years from 2002 to 2012, Brian was the prevention manager for the Northamptonshire Youth Offending service, working with various teams to develop and deliver a range of preventative initiatives. In 2012 He took up a leadership role to steer the roll out of the Troubled Families and Early Help agenda. Whilst this was not a total departure from working with adolescents, He became involved in the leadership of Children Centres and early years development. He became the Early Help Service Manager in Leicester City in 2016, since then He has had various responsibilities including the delivery of the Troubled Families programme, Children Centres, Family Support and the Youth Service. In March 2021 He was given the opportunity to become the service manager for the Children and Young People Justice Service and joined the Board.

## **Jessica Nicholls. Head of Service- SEND Support**



Jessica has been a teacher for 20 years. During this time, she has worked and a teacher and assistant educational psychologist. Jessica began working for SEND Support in 2007, initially in Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Team, supporting CYP at risk of exclusion from schools as well as whole school development work and training around SEMH needs. Additionally, she taught at the Primary PRU. For the last 7 years Jessica has undertaken several leadership roles within SEND Support. Currently Head of SEND Support with responsibility for all of the specialist teaching teams and specialist nursery, alongside strategic SEND responsibilities.

Head of SEND Support Service, managing 6 specialist teaching teams and a specialist nursery, working from 0-25 in schools, colleges, early years settings and homes. She is also responsible for the development of Designated Specialist Provisions (DSPs) reviewing SEND funding in both mainstream and special schools. Jessica works very closely with the Principal Education Officer to support schools and various strategic projects such as inclusion, SEND, mental health work and trauma Informed practice.

## **Mamps Gill YJB Head of Innovation and Engagement (Midlands)**



Mamps is the Head of Region in the Midlands region for the Youth Justice Board. Her role involves oversight of the youth justice system in the Midlands region, this includes performance improvement and sharing effective and innovative practice in youth justice delivery, and contributes to improved outcomes for children, families and communities. As a Board Member, She not only represents the YJB but also shares feedback from other local and regional meetings She attends, which include the East Midlands Local Criminal Justice Board.

**Tracy Green**

**Invited - YJB representative on the board**



I am the East Midlands oversight manager for the YJB, I provide advice, support and challenge to the 8 youth justice services across the East Midlands area. I am also currently leading on the development of the new Prevention and Diversion assessment tool, and the associated guidance and training that will accompany the tool.

Previously I have been an HMIP assistant inspector and lead inspector, completing inspections on youth justice services as part of the HMIP and JTAI inspection programmes.

I was a Probation officer and a team manager at Leicestershire youth justice service, where I led on restorative justice, out-of-court disposals, training, volunteers, as well as line and case management.

I have also been a probation officer in court teams, custodial estate and community teams

**Derrick Kabuubi – Team Manager**



Derrick has been a Team Manager since 2010. Derrick is responsible for day-to-day operational leadership for his team which includes supervision of case managers as well as holding the portfolio areas for Education and Intensive Support For Children Programme. Derrick's key responsibility is to ensure that our services are delivered in line with effective practice and youth justice standards for children, young people, and families. Prior to this role, he worked as a Court officer at the service for 4 years.

Derrick has also worked in several capacities with children and families as a qualified professional grade youth worker. This has included detached youth work, community cohesion, open access, targeted youth support, as well as Education welfare officer in Peterborough and London over the last 25 years.

### **Carol Hughes – Team Manager**



Carol is a qualified Social Worker and has been with Children and Young People's Justice Service since 2000 when she became one of the first volunteers supporting children subject to Police Final Warnings. She commenced her Social Work studies in 2002, whilst completing sessional work for CYPJS, and became a qualified 'Youth Offending Service Officer' towards the end of 2005. Carol has been a Team Manager for approximately 8 years, and has had the opportunity to join the HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) team as a Local Assessor inspecting other Youth Justice Services

on two occasions. Carol currently leads on the Out of Court Disposal Panel alongside County Youth Justice and Police colleagues. This is an area in which she thoroughly enjoys and remains passionate about embedding a 'child first, offender second' approach whilst balancing risk management and public protection.

### **Kelly Summerfield - Team Manager**



Kelly has been a Team manager since 2013 and is responsible for daily operational leadership. This involves the line management of case managers, youth advocates and Group-work co-ordinator. Kelly joined CYPJS on secondment as a newly qualified Probation Officer in 2004. Prior to joining the leadership team, Kelly worked as a Court Officer, Deter Young offenders (DYO) co-ordinator and case manager.

## **CASE MANAGERS**

### **Chris James- Youth Justice Case Manager**



Chris started off as a youth worker before qualifying as a secondary PE teacher. He taught in the secure sector for 5 years progressing to the assistant headteacher, before managing the education in a cluster of children's homes. This led him to his current role, which involves assessing, planning and adopting a coordinating approach, to delivering the intervention to children and young people and families involved in the criminal justice system

### **Chris Eastwick -Youth Justice Case Manager**



Chris Eastwick is a Case Manager working within the Children and Young Peoples Justice service and has worked there for the past 13 years. I work directly with children and young people who are subject to Court orders and Out of Court disposals both in the community and in custody, looking to reduce their reoffending and support them to make positive changes. Chris's background is within criminal law having served as a police officer and a legal representative. He is passionate about supporting young people and families. Chris is currently undertaking an Apprenticeship Social work Degree within his current role as a Case Manager.



## **Rajesh Thanki - Youth Justice Case Manager**



I have been working for Leicester City Children's and Young People's Justice Service (CYPJS) as an assistant Youth Offending Service officer with responsibility for low-level case management. In 2004 I took up the additional responsibility of being a Reparation coordinator which included setting up Reparation Placement and recruiting volunteers. In 2007, I was selected and sponsored by Leicester City Council to undertake the 3 years Social Work Degree. Since 2010 I have been a case manager with key responsibilities in include Case Management, Court Officer Role including Duty support which entails bail and remand.

Prior to myself working for YOS in 2002, my career began as an apprentice Painter and decorator with Leicester City and then becoming a qualified playworker for 10 years. I have also worked as an NVQ level 3 youth worker and coached football for the local community running 3 teams at UEFA level B stage. I have also worked as a community worker within Leicester City.

## **Andrea Wissett – Youth Justice Case Manager**



Hello, my name is Andrea Wissett, I started out in my career in criminal justice when I worked for Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Service in October 2002. I qualified as a Probation Officer in July 2006 and worked with people whose offending was linked to their problematic alcohol and illicit drug use, for a period of 5 and a half years. I was always interested in working with young people and was successful in gaining a secondment with Leicester City Youth Offending Service (as it was called then) in May 2012. Fortunately, I was able to continue in my role working with young people when I was successful in gaining full-time employment with the YOS in August 2016. I continue to feel very passionate about the work I do in supporting children and young people to make positive changes to their lives and to reach their full potential.

### **Sherelle Roberts - Youth Justice Case Manager**



Sherelle has been with our service for just over 12 years, 5 years and currently a case manager and previous to that she was a youth advocate. Sherelle is from a performing arts background having graduated with a BA(hons) in Performance at the University of East London in 2008. Whilst

in London Sherelle did various work placements in secondary schools delivering acting and dance workshops for young people. She then continued with further education once the opportunity for a position as case manager was available, at De Montfort University for a post graduate qualification in Youth and Community Development. Previous to this Sherelle worked for the secondary behaviour support service supporting young people with a range of SEN and behaviour difficulties, who had been excluded from mainstream education.

### **Josh Davidson - Youth Justice Case Manager**



Josh qualified as a Probation Officer in 2020 and joined the Youth Offending Service as a Case Manager on secondment from the Probation Service in October 2021. Josh's roles include ensuring the sentence of the court is delivered by encouraging and facilitating compliance by young people with their court orders and as the secondee ensuring transition of young offenders to adult criminal justice services when they reach 18. Prior to his role in Probation Josh worked in the Police Force and drug and alcohol services.

### **John Clarke - Youth Justice Case Manager**



John has a MA in Social Work having qualified in 1990 from Leicester University. Prior to this he turned his back on a flourishing managerial career in menswear to study Sociology. Post-graduation in 1980 he was working for Hammersmith and Fulham as a Residential Social Worker in a Regional Secure Unit and latterly as an Intermediate Treatment Worker at the Hammersmith Teenage Project. John was employed as a Children and Families Social Worker by Leicester City in 1990 and transitioned to the newly formed Youth Offending Service (now known as Children and Young Persons Justice Service) in 2000. John has been part-time, flexi retired since 2018 and continues to give 100 % to the multi-agency working with children and their parents/carers.

### **Nina Patel-Mawji - Youth Justice Case Manager**



Nina has been a Case Manager since 2021 and is responsible for managing Young People on Statutory and Non-Statutory Orders. This involves completing assessments, writing court reports and overseeing young people on Orders through the delivery of interventions. Nina qualified as a social worker in 2017 with experience of Child Protection for Leicester City Council. Prior to joining CYPJS, Nina's experience includes working within areas of substance misuse, mental health and careers advice. Outside of work, Nina enjoys baking and cooking.

## **Becky Stevens - Youth Justice Case Manager**



I began my career working with young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties who had been excluded from mainstream school, both as a teaching assistant and key worker in alternative provisions. In 2015 I graduated from De Montfort University with a BA (hons) in Youth and Community Work. Due to my interest working with young people I further volunteered overseas and as a youth mentor for Leicestershire Youth Justice Service. I have been working within the Criminal Justice System since 2018 as a Liaison & Diversion Youth Worker across Leicester Police Custody Suites. This experience included supporting young people with mental health difficulties and those at risk of further offending. I further continued my education in 2021 and completed the Effective Practice Certificate in Youth Justice. This knowledge allowed me to progress within my career and in November 2022 I was successful in being appointed as a case manager within Leicester Children and Young People's Justice Service. I thoroughly enjoy this role and I am committed to working together to achieve better outcomes for young people.

## **Heather Mair - Youth Justice Case Manager**



Heather completed the Youth and Community HND in June 1998 and subsequently has had various roles including a Homelessness Officer, Probation Relief Duty Officer, Independent Monitor for Leicestershire County Councils Childrens Homes, Independent Monitoring Board Member at the former HMYOI Glen Parva Support and as a Project Worker within Women's Aid. Heather joined Children and Young People's Justice Service in 2004 as a Parenting Co-ordinator before going over to the Education Dept as an Education Welfare Officer in 2019. She was so passionate about her time with CYJPS that she returned in September 2021 to start her role as a Case Manager role. Heather has great energy and drive who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, always going that extra mile to support children and their family with on-going multi-agency working.

## **Mark Sheehan - Youth Justice Case Manager**

Mark has worked for the service since 2004. Mark joined the team as the group coordinator but later moved on to working as a parent support worker prior to becoming a case manager. Mark is a qualified youth Worker having gained experience in the following fields: Sports Coach, Youth work, Play (adventure playgrounds), drug counselling and drug rehabilitation.

## **Claire Disney – Intensive Support For Children coordinator**

I have been working as Intensive Support For Children (ISFC) for the last 14 years. The position facilitates multi-agency management and supervision of young people who enter the Criminal Justice System, assessed as high risk of harm or offending. This involves building trusting relationships as well as delivering intervention for those children who are more likely to re-offend as well as cause harm to the community. I also sit on a range of forums including the Exploitation and Missing Hub, JAG which provides an opportunity to share concerns about associations with children at risk of serious youth violence, and other safeguarding issues with other partners as well as with the wider service. As part of my role, I work alongside other statutory and voluntary services under the Phoenix Programme and Integrated Offender Management Programme. Prior to my current role, I worked as a Prison officer within a juvenile establishment and then went on to manage the Drugs Intervention Programme.

### **PC Ben Broad- Police Officer**



I have been with the service since January 2022. My role as a police officer is to exchange information and intelligence with the children and young people's service and Leicestershire police. I also sit on the Out of Court Disposal Panel meeting as well as have direct involvement with delivering Out of Court Disposals. I am also responsible for delivering interventions to children as part of the Intensive Support for Children programme. I joined Leicestershire Police in 2006 and have predominantly throughout my career focused on serving local communities around East Leicester with the last two and half years focusing specifically on knife crime and young people's awareness around this area. I am looking forward to working within the service and the positive impact this will have on children and families.

### **PC Kaajal Jethwa -Police Officer**

I joined Leicestershire Police in 2014. I have extensive experience as a frontline Response Officer and as a Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer. I joined the service in April 2022. In my current role as a Police Officer, I share vital intelligence with the Children and Young People Justice Service and Leicestershire Police. Within my role I take ownership for preparing and delivering the Out of Court panel. In addition to this, I am also responsible for updating weekly intelligent logs. I also deliver interventions to children, as part of the Intensive Support for Children programme.



**Lisa Sawyers – Advocate**



Lisa joined the Department back in 1989 as a Residential Social worker. Then in 2006 became an Assistant YOS officer for the Youth Offending Service and then as an Advocate for the CYPJS.

**Brian Simmonds- Advocate**



*"I have been working within Youth and community development for over 30 years. I have been working at Children and young people justice service as a youth advocate for over 20 years. "*

**Ashok Patel- Advocate**





After taking a break after leaving formal school and trying to find work I eventually decided to go back to college attain my 'A' levels and take up a Degree in 'Sport Science' at Liverpool Polytechnic now fondly know as Liverpool Sir John Moors University. I left the institute with a BCS Degree 2:2 qualification and eventually found myself gaining employment with Leicester City Council as a Youth and play coordinator in 1993. Since then I have had varying roles as a after school sessional worker, a detached street based worker and worked on and coordinated a number of Playschemes for 8 – 14 year olds. I became deputy and then Manager of West End Neighbourhood centre from 1998 until I ended up at the Leicester city Youth offending service in 2004. I have been here ever since having worked in a number of roles namely Assistant YOS officer, Reparation Coordinator and finally what I am currently employed as is an 'Youth Advocate'

### **Parisha Pujara- Referral Order Co-ordinator**



Parisha is a qualified Social Worker. She joined Children and Young People's Justice Service and has had various roles. Parisha is currently the Restorative Justice and Volunteer Coordinator. She loves the variety of her role as also gets the opportunity to work with loads of different people all with the same aim to support young people in making a positive change in their life and refrain from crime. She has led on the Summer Arts Project for the past three years, which is art-based programme for young people with the aim of them accessing education, training and employment (ETE) opportunities. The programme has been successful each year with all young people successfully completing the programme, achieving Awards and either being in ETE or taking those next

steps. Parisha is passionate, energetic and a committed individual who is always seeking a challenge.

### **Nicola/ Nikki Mills - Victim Officer**



Nicola is new to the role of Victim Contact Officer having previously worked with the Community Resolution and Prevention team as a Prevention Officer since January 2020. Prior to this Nicola worked with the National Citizen Service (NCS) as an Area Coordinator, leading the summer 2019 programme for Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, engaging, uniting, and empowering young people. Designed specifically for 16 and 17-year olds, the NCS experience gives young people a clearer idea of what they want for their future, whilst building confidence to go out and achieve their dreams. Before this Nicola worked with the Youth Offending Service in Barrow in Furness as a Case Manager and prior to this Nicola was a Police Officer, with 10 years' experience working with Leicestershire Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police in London. Nicola completed an initial training programme in Youth Work studies in 2006 when working as a volunteer Youth Worker and has also worked abroad on volunteer projects with young people.

Nicola's primary role as Victim contact officer is to

- Support victims of youth crime
- Complete victim impact statements
- Work with the Restorative Justice and Volunteer Coordinator to ensure victims' needs and reparation are a key part of intervention work
- Support Case Managers with victim awareness interventions - through direct delivery and supporting with resources/session plans
- Plan and deliver victim awareness and RJ group sessions with the RJ and Volunteer Coordinator
- Plan and facilitate Restorative Justice, including conferencing

### **Emily Bird / Education Coordinator**

I am currently the Education Co-ordinator at Leicester City Children and Young People's Justice Service, working with both a targeted and multiagency approach, to enable the children of statutory school age to reach their full potential and meet their educational aspirations.

I am a qualified Youth Work and Community Development worker, having previously been a youth worker within a Local authority and a Charitable organisation, before moving into education and working within the Virtual School Team and Special Educational Services within the Leicester City Council.

## **EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM**

### **Ivor Sutton – Team Manager**



Ivor has 20 years' experience working with young people within youth justice and children's social care. He established the Early Intervention team in 2019, to identify and divert young people away from the criminal justice system. Prior to this he was Team Manager of the Multisystemic Therapy team within children's social care, working with families, and young people at risk of care or custody. Ivor qualified in Youth and Community Development in 2012 and prior to this worked at Leicester City Youth Offending Service as a Senior Advocate for the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Team, working with young people at risk of custody.

### **Deesa Patel – Prevention Officer**



Deesa has 15 years' experience working with children, young people and adults within nurseries, schools (including SEN/behaviour schools) and probation service. She has been working as a Prevention Officer within the Early Intervention team since January 2020. Prior to this she was working as an Accredited Programmes Facilitator for the Reducing Reoffending Partnership Ltd. Within that role, Deesa delivered accredited programmes to service users to support lifestyle changes and rehabilitate individuals. Deesa's qualifications vary from a BSc (Hons) in Psychology, BTEC in Children's Care, Learning and Development and a Certificate in supporting learning who are Deaf/Blind (Multi-sensory impaired (MSI)).

### **Mark Rawle – Prevention Officer**



Mark is an ex professional footballer that joined the youth service originally back in 2010 after retiring from the game. He worked with the looked after young people as a football coach and then in youth clubs as a youth worker for a number of years, then alongside that he joined the Youth offending service and worked as a Youth advocate. Mark gained wealth of experience working with and supporting a variety of young people and their families. Joint working with a host of other agencies has been an integral part of the role in the pursuit of achieving the best possible outcomes for the young people and their families.

At the beginning of 2020, Mark joined the Community Resolution and Prevention team as a Prevention officer. *"A different role to advocacy, I'm enjoying it and it's very rewarding and has*

*given me a different angle on the cases that I work with. I consider myself very lucky to be working in such amazing and enthusiastic team. "*

### **Tina Botley– Prevention Officer**



Tina Joined Leicester City Council as a Prevention Officer in January 2020. Prior to this she spent nearly 30 years with Lincolnshire Police as a Police Officer. Tina spent the second half of her Police Career working in Public Protection and worked initially as a Domestic Violence Officer working with High Risk DV Victims prior to being a Detective Constable within Child and Adult Protection and also specialising on the Child Sexual Exploitation Team. Tina also worked as the Police Officer on the Youth Offending Team and managed the Local Lincolnshire Police Cadets for 12 years looking after the development and welfare of young people. Additionally, Tina was a Force Trainer and advisory for Equality and Race Relations.

### **Arandeep Kullar– Prevention Officer**



Arandeep started her position as a Youth Advocate after graduating from the University of Birmingham with a degree in Social Policy and Criminology in 2019. Arandeep has gained theoretical

knowledge around Youth Justice and the Criminal Justice System but has also applied her skills whilst undertaking placements and voluntary opportunities within West Midlands Police. In December 2021, Arandeep became a Prevention Officer, undertaking new skills and opportunities, including assessment and report writing. Arandeep is also a Participation Champion, following the Lundy Model approach to transform how our service promotes young people and families' voice.

### **Rebekah Jacks– Prevention Officer**



Rebekah joined the team in January of this year, changing career after 14 years as a police officer. On completing her Human Services degree in Criminal Justice in 2004, she worked within the hospital school at the Leicester Royal Infirmary with sick children on the wards and children and young people in the day school who had been unable to sustain mainstream education, before moving into the criminal justice sector as an Officer Support Grade at HMP Whatton. She then qualified as a police officer and after 2 years as a response officer in Nottingham moved to Essex where after a further few years 'on the beat', joined the Domestic abuse safeguarding team. She developed her passion for partnership working as a seconded officer in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) with Children's Social Care. That experience and the focus on safeguarding children, led her to take up her current role of direct work with vulnerable young people.

### **Lauren Nelson – Prevention Officer**



Lauren joined the team in March in 2023. Throughout her education, Lauren took part in many extracurricular experiences and voluntary roles that equipped her with the opportunity to interact with and support young people – whether this be their personal life, with their vulnerabilities or in their education. Therefore, after completing her degree in Criminology and Psychology in 2021, she ventured further into the world of academia and became an Academic Support Officer for university students.

After being in this role for 2 years, Lauren desired to work in a role that used her degree more directly – which is what led her to join our team earlier this year.

## REACH TEAM

### **Ayesha Desai- Team Manager**



Ayesha has over 20 years of experience working within the education and youth justice arenas. Graduating in 2000 and armed with a degree in Psychology and English Literature, Ayesha embarked on her journey to try and make a difference to the lives of vulnerable, disadvantaged children and young people of Leicester City.

As the years progressed so did her passion for justice, inclusion, and equality in education for all those she met. She has worked in various frontline and managerial roles within education,



supporting children and young people who were at risk of school exclusion or those who had found themselves permanently excluded. For the last 16 years, Ayesha established herself as the Pre-16 Education Coordinator for the Children and Young People's Justice Service, ensuring the rights to an appropriate, suitable and meaningful education for all the children and young people who were known to the CYPJS.

She has recently been appointed as the Team Manager for The Reach Project, a new pilot project sitting within Early Intervention & Prevention which provides intensive, responsive, and contextually tailored mentoring support to young people who are at risk of school exclusion.

### **Max Fisher – Operations Officer**



Max has a creative background, studying art and photography he went on to work with a third sector education provider delivering arts based groupwork sessions before moving to the projects team where he worked as a Projects Assistant.



Later moving to Leicester City Council, he worked as a Support Worker for the Connexions Service, working with NEET young people, and an administrator for the Children & Young People's Justice Service before joining the Reach Team as Operations Officer.

### **Priya Dosanjh- Youth Worker**



Priya attended University in Birmingham and completed an Undergraduate degree in Psychology, and a Masters degree in Forensic Psychology. Priya previously volunteered at Rethink Mental Health Charity and Victim Support during her time at university.

Priya has been with the Reach Team for one year now and her favourite thing about the role is being able to support the young people she works with and watching them develop their skills and qualities over the 24-week programme.

### **Karen Norton – Youth Worker**



Karen has worked as a volunteer youth group leader for 10 years since moving to the UK from the USA in 2011. Karen has directed camps for secondary school aged groups during the summer school holidays in Herefordshire, as well as leading afterschool youth groups in Leicester.

Karen worked in her previous role as a cover supervisor in Leicestershire for 4 years before accepting her new role as a Youth Worker for The Reach Team

### **Jake Woodings – Youth Worker**



Jake joined the Reach Team in February 2023. Prior to this Jake worked as a Residential Support Worker in a private-owned residential home, supporting vulnerable children and young people who came into the care of the Local Authority. He also worked for the NHS during the pandemic. Jake is an extremely talented graffiti artist and has worked alongside and collaborated with creative organizations such as Graffwerks and UK New Artists.

Jake is also an Arts Award Ambassador, supporting children and young people to enjoy the arts and develop as artists and arts leaders.

At the age of 18, Jake, alongside two other friends, was commissioned to design a 40ft mural at the Beaumont Leys Speedway Circuit – which can still be viewed there today. And if you fancy a cocktail at the end of a long day, Jake has also worked as a professional mixologist.

**Zarah Lee – Youth Worker**



Zarah graduated in Youth and Community Development in November 2021. Zarah has worked with Children and Young people for 6 years and is now a Youth Worker for The Reach Team. Her role involves supporting young people who are at risk of school exclusion.

Prior to this, she was an Assistant Youth Support Worker for the Youth Service. Her role involved assisting in open access and detached youth work sessions to provide opportunities to young people using youth work methods and activities.

After, Zarah worked as Senior Youth Worker on the Safer Routes Project, working with young people identified through the Early Help Pathway.

Zarah then moved to join the Children and Young People's Justice Service as a Youth Advocate, working with young offenders and encouraging them to take part in constructive activities.

### **Umar Nurgat – Youth Worker**



Umar Graduated with a first-class degree in youth work and community development in 2022, with an additional achievement of coming top of the class. Umar has been working in the youth work sector for the past 5 years, having worked in different placements and settings such as; faith based youth work, summer camps, and support work for young people in semi-independent living.

Before working for the REACH team, Umar worked in an alternative education provision which provided practical skills and courses for young people.

## **Arwel Hughes- Youth Worker**



Arwel Hughes has worked within the education and youth system for 4 years, since graduating in 2019. Arwel graduated with a Sport Coaching and Human Science degree from Liverpool Hope University.

Arwel started his journey after university as a teacher in an alternative provision, as well as delivering detached youth work for disadvantaged children and young people in Leicestershire. Throughout the years Arwel has always played rugby for his local team, school and university and is also a level 2 boxing coach.

His passion towards youth work and helping others has continued as he is now a youth worker for the Reach Team