

Getting Involved: A Conference for the Third Sector in Leeds

Speakers

Councillor Rev'd Alan Taylor: The Lord Mayor of Leeds

Councillor Taylor was born in Leeds attending Hunslet Carr School until leaving to work at Yorkshire Imperial Metals – formerly Yorkshire Copper Works. He continued clerical work joining the GPO staff (as a young Postman and later as a Postman for Hunslet Road/Jack Lane and the Brooms Estate in South Leeds). It was a job he thoroughly enjoyed and was instrumental in a vocation to train for priest hood in the Church of England.

After 4 years of theological study in Sevenoaks and Chichester he went to Liverpool serving in the parishes of Walton, Old Swan and Toxteth. He combined much of his parish work as Race Relations Advisor to the then Bishop of Liverpool, David Sheppard. In between parishes he became a monk at the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield. He returned to Leeds in 1983 to become Vicar of St Aidan's, Harehills where he is still serving. He is the longest serving vicar of a parish in the diocese.

All his Ministry has been in the inner city and as a result he is passionate about issues relating to inner city life. In 1998 the then Bishop of Ripon appointed him as an Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.

Councillor Taylor has always had an interest in local issues and decided was elected to the Council in 1999. He represents Gipton and Harehills ward.

He lives in the ward and his parish of St Aidan's covers a large part of the ward. His main political interest is Community Development and Community Cohesion and he combines both as Priest and Councillor.

During his term of office, Councillor Taylor will be accompanied by colleagues and friends who will perform the role of Lady Mayoress or Consort.

The Lord Mayor's Charity appeal this year goes towards Voluntary Action Leeds. If you want to donate to the appeal, there are buckets on the VAL stall where you can do so.

Tom Riordan: Chief Executive of Leeds City Council

Tom took up the position of Chief Executive of Leeds City Council in August 2010. He is the youngest Chief Executive in the history of the council.

Born and educated in North Yorkshire Tom graduated from Oxford in 1989. He joined the Civil Service and progressed quickly through a variety of jobs, specialising in environmental policy and representing the UK in international negotiations on climate change and endangered species.

Tom gained a first class Masters in Business Administration in 1997, specialising in regional economic development networks, and was responsible for setting up Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency for Government Office; becoming Chief Executive in February 2006.

Tom is a member of the NHS Future Forum and previously Co-Chair of the Government's national Ethnic Minority Business Task Force. As one of Bradford University's honorary graduates in July 2008, Tom became a Doctor of Letters.



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Simon Burrall: Director of Involve

Simon Burrall is the Director of Involve, a charity that specialises in public engagement, participation and dialogue. Involve, in partnership with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Institute for Volunteering Research, recently published the findings of Pathways through Participation, a two-and-a-half year research project into active citizenship, one of the field work areas for which was in Leeds.

In addition to his role with Involve, Simon is also the Chair of Democratic Audit, an Ambassador for WWF UK and a member of the Steering Committee of the ScienceWise Expert Resource Centre.

Before moving to Involve Simon was a Research Fellow at ODI from 2006 – 2009. His interests included stakeholder engagement in the reform of the international aid delivery system and how to make development finance more effective. Prior to this he was the Executive Director of the One World Trust from 1999 – 2005. Before joining the Trust, Simon re-established the UK volunteer network for AFS, an organisation based in Leeds co-ordinating intercultural exchange visits.

Antonia Mochan: Head of communication, partnerships and networks, European Commission Representation in the UK

Antonia Mochan began work for the European Commission in 1995. Her first experience was in the Directorate General (DG) for Education, Training and Youth – working on things like making it easier for students and researchers to move around the EU, and how to get commercial value for the training products developed with EU funding.

In 2003 she was recruited as the spokesperson for Employment and Social Affairs, working directly with the Commissioner and soon followed this by becoming the spokesperson for Science and Research.

She then moved to London to work as head of media in the UK. She's now working in a slightly different role, building partnerships with organisations outside the EU to talk about issues of interest in the UK. She has particular responsibility for extending our partnerships and networks outside London, to make sure the EU is hearing the full range of views from across the UK.

Councillor Lucinda Yeadon: Executive Member for Adult Social Care

Lucinda is the Executive Board member for Adult Health and Social Care at Leeds City Council. She took over the role in May 2010, following her election as a Labour councillor for Kirkstall ward in 2008.

She has a strong commitment to ensuring Leeds is an accessible city for all and believes this should be demonstrated throughout all of the city council's work.

Lucinda sits on the Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board and is Chair of both the Leeds European Year of Volunteering Steering Group and the Third Sector Leeds Partnership Group. Living with a disability having herself been born with Spina Bifida, Lucinda has always championed disability rights. Lucinda's interest in this was honed through her work for Mencap. This included work as an Employment Coordinator, helping people with learning disabilities to get into work, followed by her role as a Community Development Coordinator, covering the Pennines, Greater Manchester, Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees.