



Azizur Rehman (Aziz)

Spirit in Mind Lead

Spirit in Mind

Candidate Statement

My past experience of dealing with Local Authorities shows me that the Health sector seems to be going in the same direction as Housing and Education and will have more local accountability once all the changes have taken place, however there could be a lot more Private Sector and Third Sector involvement in the process. The NHS is a huge organisation and there is a risk of plans being disjointed if the STPs are not aligned in a coordinated fashion. I think I can bring experience and a 'safe pair of hands' to National Voices with a flare of innovation and vision.

I have a keen interest in Spirituality, Faith, Healthcare, Mental Health and VCSE sustainability. I currently lead an innovative project based in Yorkshire called 'Spirit in Mind' within South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The project recognises and seeks to draw upon the possibilities opened up by working with locally based Spiritual, Faith and Humanist organisations ("Spiritual Partners") to significantly enhance the diversity and quality of support available to users of NHS services. This includes funding and commissioning faith based organisations, participation in governing bodies, committees and strategic partnerships.

In 2015 I bid for a project titled 'BME Dementia Development' which was successful in receiving two years funding by Kirklees Council Adult Social Care and Community Partnerships team for financial years 2016-2018 to develop the project. I also became a Dementia Champion and facilitated many debates within the community around Mental Health and the stigma that surrounded it.

Earlier this year I was appointed as a Trustee of the National Spirituality and Mental Health Forum-

<http://www.spiritualitymentalhealth.org.uk/index.html>. This group primarily started many years ago working with NHS Trusts and Chaplaincy within NHS Nationally. There is representation from all the 9 faiths that are commonly known within UK society on the board.

I currently sit on the West Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioners Third Sector Advisory Group which meets a few times a year. This group directly has input into the Safer Communities Fund programme.

I have been a past Vice Chair of Bradford Council for Voluntary Services and continue to work actively within the VCSE sector and recently more particularly in Health & Social Care.

I was headhunted to serve as a Governor of 2 new schools in Bradford and was involved in overseeing the new-build and bringing the community with the school in the process.

I have served as a member on the board of Jephson Homes Housing Association and one other housing association previously.

I attended an International Conference in 2016 in Sweden titled 'World Clinical Micro Systems Festival' and the theme of the four days was 'Person Centred Care'. We launched Spirit in Mind on the European scene and delivered a presentation on one of the days and facilitated a workshop.

I am a member of the Institute of Leadership & Management and has a Diploma in Leadership & Management.