

Vulnerable Adolescents - Tackling Criminal Exploitation

Thursday 1st November 2018, 9.30am – 4.00pm
The Old Library, Guildhall, Gresham St, London EC2V 5AE

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Andrew Carter, Director Community & Children's Services, City of London Corporation



Andrew has Chief Officer responsibilities for: Housing & the Barbican, Children's and Adult Social Care, Education & Skills, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, Community Libraries and Health & Wellbeing.

Andrew joined the Corporation in May 2017 having previously been an Assistant Director in Thurrock and Lambeth Councils. Andrew has over 20 years of experience in Children's and Families Social Work having obtained a Masters in Social Work from the University of Sussex in 1994. Andrew is passionate about building stronger communities and co-production.

Jim Gamble QPM, Chief Executive Officer, Ineqe & Independent Chair, CHSCB



Jim Gamble, is the CEO of the Ineqe Group of Specialist Safeguarding Companies and Independent Chair of several London based Safeguarding Children's Boards, including the City of London and Hackney; the first to be judged outstanding by Ofsted. He is widely recognised as a global authority on safeguarding children and was the founding chair of the Virtual Global Taskforce; a former national policing lead for child protection and the architect and CEO of the UK Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre. He has recently been appointed as the Independent Reviewer of Oxfam GB's safeguarding arrangements.

Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor of London for Policing & Crime



Sophie was a Hackney councillor from 2006 until her appointment by the Mayor of London. She was Deputy Mayor of Hackney Council, with lead responsibility for crime and community safety, environmental health and trading standards, equalities and neighbourhood and civic engagement. She was part of the senior leadership that saw Hackney awarded 'Council of the Last 20 Years' (2016) by the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards, the LGC Editor's Award for Partnership Working (2014) for their ground breaking gangs unit, and a rating of 'excellent' in the Local Government Equality Framework.

She was a special adviser at the Home Office from 2001 to 2004. While there Sophie worked with the Home Secretary and Ministers on policy development and strategy, including: police reform, crime and antisocial behaviour reduction, neighbourhood policing and reducing the harm caused by illegal drugs. From 1997 to 2001 Sophie was a special adviser to David Blunkett in the Department for Education and Employment.

Dr Carlene Firmin MBE, *Principal Research Fellow, University of Bedfordshire*



Dr Carlene Firmin MBE is a Principal Research Fellow at the University of Bedfordshire, where she leads their Contextual Safeguarding and peer-on-peer abuse research programmes. Carlene has spent the past 10 years researching young people's experiences of community and group-based violence and advocated for comprehensive approaches that keep young people safe in public places, schools and peer groups. Her theory of Contextual Safeguarding has informed policy and research agendas for advancing the protection of adolescents, and she has worked with practitioners across the UK to co-create contextual interventions and develop contextual safeguarding systems within children's social care.

Carlene has also conducted 20 case reviews for safeguarding children's boards to identify opportunities for intervening with extra-familial forms of significant harm. Carlene is a board member for NOTA and also sits on a number of national policy advisory panels for issues including gang violence, violence against women and girls and child protection. She has been an invited speaker to a range of international and national conferences and trained over 3,000 professionals since 2015. Carlene has written on the issues of safeguarding and violence in the national newspaper, the *Guardian*, since 2010, and is widely published in the area of child welfare. In 2011 Carlene became the youngest black woman to receive an MBE for her seminal work on gang-affected young women in the UK.

Shaba Dachi, *Practice Lead, Contextual Safeguarding Project, Hackney Children and Families Service*



Shaba has worked in Social Work for 10 years across a variety of local authorities working in child and family assessments, children in need services and complex family court proceedings work. He also has extensive experience in working with vulnerable and high risk adolescents. Shaba has been leading and developing practice for the contextual safeguarding team in Hackney for the last year (since September 2017) helping to embed this approach into the Children and Family Service in Hackney whilst also supporting the development of risk assessments, safety plans, resources and intervention toolkits for LBH and the contextual safeguarding network.

Cathal Ryan, *Service Manager, Hackney Children and Families Service*



Cathal has been a qualified social worker since 2001 and since then has worked in Local Authority settings, primarily within Children and Families Services. He managed the 'front door' service in the London Borough of Islington for two years before coming to Hackney in 2011 to do the same. Since then Cathal designed and managed Hackney's Out of Hours Service and its Overstaying Families Intervention Team in addition to managing social work units within the Assessment Service before moving to Safer Communities in 2015 where he created and managed Hackney's Domestic Abuse Intervention Service and launched its Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

Cathal returned to the Children and Families Service in January 2018 where he currently manages the Family Support Service and is the Practice Lead for the Troubled Families Programme. Cathal also chairs the Reducing Harm workstream for Hackney's Young Black Men Programme. Arising from his work with Hackney's Contextual Safeguarding project Cathal has helped design and will co-chair Hackney's Extra Familial Risk Panel which launches on 21st November 2018.

Lucy Dacey, National Programme Manager, Disrupting Exploitation, The Children's Society



Lucy is the national manager for The Children's Society's Disrupting Exploitation Programme. The new programme is working both 1-1 with young people at risk of exploitation and on systems change and contexts that place children at risk of exploitation.

Prior to starting this role Lucy managed The Children's Society's award winning public affairs team, including local and Welsh influencing. She has influenced party manifestos, managed a council tax campaign to exempt care leavers from council tax and would regularly meet with Ministers, MPs, and local Cabinet Members to influence change and improve policy.

Lucy started her career in children's policy in Essex County Council and Westminster City Council.

Rhiannon Sawyer, Area Manager, Disrupting Exploitation, The Children's Society



Rhiannon has worked at The Children's Society for 5 years and oversees The Children's Society's frontline work in London which includes criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, VAWG, destitution, advocacy, missing and trafficking. Prior to working at TCS Rhiannon worked for various criminal justice and prevention charities including Only Connect, Geese Theatre Company, Growing Against Violence, Tender, Nia and in adult custody.

Keeley Burns & Rebecca Luisis, Co-founders of the Charlie Burns Foundation (and Charlie Burns' Mother & Aunt)



Keeley Burns co-founded the Charlie Burns Foundation with Rebecca Luisis in the memory of Keeley's son Charlie who was stabbed to death in 2014 during a row over a £150 debt. Through the foundation they seek to build relationships in communities, to create safer streets. The foundation believes families can do their bit too, and through grassroots projects like Postcode Parents, initially set up in late 2015, they are not only helping grieving parents but also hosting workshops and talks offering support to those who fear their children may be involved, or on the cusp of being involved, in crime.

AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd



AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd is a 'not-for-profit' Social Enterprise.

They are one of the UK's leading Applied Theatre companies – using theatre and related media to illustrate the narrative, kick-start conversation, build resilience and inspire change around complex social issues. We work with schools, colleges, universities, police forces, social services, LSCBs, charities, borough councils, county councils, private businesses, national government agencies, the military and NGOs to deliver productions, workshops and training for young people and adults both in the UK and abroad.

Yvonne Lawson, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Godwin Lawson Foundation



Yvonne Lawson is founder and CEO of the Godwin Lawson Foundation (GLF). Born in North London, she lived with her family in Ghana returning to London when she was 15. After attending secondary school in Tottenham and studying Business and Finance at college, Yvonne worked for a local authority before completing teacher training at Middlesex University, and spending 16 fulfilling years as a primary school teacher.

Yvonne is a mother and married to Calvin. However, their close family unit was devastated by the tragic loss of their oldest son Godwin in March, 2010. Popular, kind and ambitious, Godwin was talented sportsman who was attending Oxford United Football Academy on a scholarship. Godwin was stabbed in the street in Stamford Hill, trying to stop two of his old school friends being attacking by four young men. He was just 17.

GLF was founded in memory of, and inspired by Godwin's life. Following his death, Yvonne began researching gangs and knife crime. Shocked by its scale and impact, she became determined that Godwin's legacy should do something to help keep young people safe, and prevent other families having to go through the pain and loss that hers had suffered.

Yvonne and Calvin initially organised Memorial Peace Marches in memory of Godwin and all other victims of knife crime, to build awareness of the high levels of knife crime and its consequences and appeal for peace. In 2012 Yvonne set up the GLF, a registered charity that aims to advance the education of young people so that they can develop their capabilities as members of a tolerant society.

Yvonne uses Godwin's story to illustrate the terrible and far reaching consequences that carrying knives can have, and to educate young people on how to keep themselves safe, reach their full potential and make a positive contribution to their communities. Projects to date have directly reached over 3000 young people in North London and beyond by means of presentations and workshops. Presentations for around 2500 are currently scheduled. In March this year GLF won the public vote to gain funding for their 'Empowering Girls' project which will work with 40 at risk girls in local schools.

The Peace Ambassadors are young people who have attended GLF workshops aim to support other young people. Around 30 volunteer at GLF events and provide peer support in their schools and communities.

Yvonne also gained the support of the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation which has hosts the annual GLF Memorial Football Tournament. Around 500 boys and girls have so far been involved in the 5-a-side tournament, and the event helps to break down postcode barriers.

Recognising that the law did little to deter the carrying of knives, Yvonne campaigned for change. With the support of the then Enfield MP, Nick De Bois she met and gained the backing of top politicians including David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson. As a result, new legislation came into force on **17 July 2015 requiring a mandatory sentence of at least six months for anyone caught carrying a knife for the second time.**