

Speakers' biographies:

Chauhdry Abdul Rashid JP, The Lord Mayor of Birmingham



During twelve years service with Dudley Local Authority and four years as a Non-Executive Director for Dudley Family Health Services Authority, he also found time to serve on the Black Country Talking Newspaper, Dudley Council of Faiths and Dudley One World.

In 2000 Chauhdry Rashid took early retirement from Local Government Service due to health problems suffering from leukaemia and recovering from three angina attacks.

Since 2002 he has been:

- a board member of Birmingham Family Housing Association
- a board member of St Peters (Saltley) Housing Association
- a governor of Mathew Boulton College
- a governor of Regents Park Primary School

as well as serving on many other school and college governing bodies.

In 2003 he was offered a part-time job with Dudley Muslim Association a voluntary organisation. Despite becoming an OAP in 2006 he still worked as a Senior Community Development Officer for the DMA.

Chauhdry Rashid is a family man and is very proud to live in Birmingham. It is an honour for him to serve as Lord Mayor and he intends to do his very best to promote the city wherever he goes. Birmingham is a cosmopolitan city proud of its multi-cultural, multi-faith, multi-racial background and Councillor Rashid will work throughout his year as Lord Mayor to promote peace, unity and harmony.

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK



Sabina is Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK is the first ever charity and small national organisation run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents, representing the needs of Deaf parents in the UK.

She is also well-known for her book *'Pregnancy and Birth: A Guide for Deaf Women'* was published in May 2004. This book is the first ever of its kind for Deaf parents in UK and possibly in the world. This has set precedent for information to be accessible to Deaf parents; resulted in Deaf Parenting UK working in partnership with DPPi and endorsing DVD in BSL entitled *'A Guide to Pregnancy and Childbirth for Deaf Parents.'*

Being an Asian Deaf mum of two children and currently works as Sensory Team Manager for one of the London boroughs. She also has over 10years experiences of working with local authorities as project researcher in 1996 looking at Asian Deaf people and their families with regard to their access to council services. Sabina presented papers on her research findings at various local, national & international conferences including Social Services Inspectorate. When the project ended, she continued working as a Social Worker and obtained her DipSW qualification in the year 2000 and NVQ4 in Management in 2004.

She completed her third year BA (Hons) degree in International Social Work in 2001. This included doing a three months international research project 'Deaf Parenting: Raising a Child - An initial study on Deaf parents with children aged 0-11yrs' in USA, as part of her dissertation. It was the first ever focus on Deaf Parents on local, national and international levels as previous research mostly focuses on deaf children and their hearing families. From there, Deaf Parenting UK was born.

She also won the *'Asian Student of the Year 2000'*, a national award as nominated by her university, sponsored by Mars (chocolate bar) and as a result, she worked with Mars, an international company on improving opportunities for Disabled Graduates.

She has been involved with various projects as a freelance trainer/consultant on Ethnic Deaf issues, and freelance reporter/TV presenter for Deaf programmes.

Maria Miller MP, Shadow Minister for the Family



Maria has been Member of Parliament for Basingstoke since the 2005 General Election. She is married to Iain Miller, and they have 1 daughter and 2 sons.

Before entering Parliament, Maria worked in marketing and advertising. She was a director of Grey Advertising and also Rowland Saatchi. Prior to that Maria worked for the oil company Texaco in the area of corporate social responsibility and business development in central and eastern Europe.

On becoming a Member of Parliament Maria was appointed to the Trade and Industry Select Committee, and was part of a cross party trade delegation to Ghana in November 2005 to review fair trade issues in that country. She became Shadow Minister for Education in December 2005 – November 2006, and Shadow Minister for Family Welfare including the Child Support Agency from November 2006 – July 2007. Maria was appointed as Shadow Minister for the Family in July 2007.

Maria's other interests include: mental health, infertility, and housing and homelessness, and she is a member of the all party groups which support those issues. She is also the Vice Chairman of the Media All Party Group and Co-Chairman of the Gas Safety All Party Group.

Maria is a governor of a local comprehensive secondary school in Basingstoke, and a member of the Basingstoke Fairtrade group.

Hobbies and interests: her 3 children and Basingstoke's history.

Councillor Les Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Children, Young people, Families, Birmingham City Council



Chairman of the Local Government Association's Children and Young People's Board

Chairman of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth and Community Workers.

Cabinet Member for Children, Young people and Families on Birmingham City Council having previously chaired the education and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Governor of the King Edwards Foundation in Birmingham and currently chairs Turves Green Girls School and Technology College.

- Director of the National Youth Agency
- Chairman of the Royal Orthopaedic NHS Hospital Trust
- Member of the University of Aston in Birmingham Council

As Cabinet Member and Lead member for Children's Services, I am politically accountable for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of local Authority Children's Services and Leadership within and beyond the Local Authority to engage and encourage Local Communities in order to improve Children's Services both within the Local Authority and across partner agencies.

The Children Act 2004, followed on from the consultation 'Every Child Matters', which identified five key outcomes for all children and young people:

1. Be Healthy
2. Stay Safe
3. Achieve Economic Wellbeing
4. Enjoy and Achieve
5. Make a Positive Contribution

The outcomes will be delivered through integrated, collaborative and supportive working.

Believe it or not, he is also a software engineer still writing software programme!

Professor Ulrike Zeshan, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador



A professor in sign language linguistics and director of the new International Centre for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies (iSLanDS Centre) at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. Before she came to the UK, Ulrika mostly worked on sign languages in South and West Asia. At the iSLanDS Centre, she worked with a team who documented and compared the grammatical structures of sign languages around the world.

Most of her staff and students at the Centre are deaf, and do a lot of work with deaf communities in developing countries, for example Uganda, India, and Lebanon. Ulrika also is involved in sign language curriculum and materials development together with NGOs and governments in India and in Turkey. Together with some of her deaf colleagues, she serves on the board of the Deaf Empowerment Foundation, which works towards university access for deaf people in developing countries. Ulrika is fluent in Indian Sign Language, Turkish Sign Language and International Sign, and is learning BSL now. In her spare time, she likes spending time with her son, playing with her cat, going for walks in the forest, and making music.

Yasmin Kovic, Safeguarding Advisor: Deaf children and young people, NSPCC



Yasmin is a deaf social worker with 13 years post qualification experience, including working in a residential setting for deaf adults and young people with mental health problems and learning difficulties and with students in a college for deaf people. For five years, she was employed by the London Borough of Newham as a Social Worker with Deaf Children and Their Families/Carers, where she undertook both family support work and child protection work.

In 2003 Yasmin joined the NSPCC where she developed and delivered a safety skills programme with groups of deaf children. At this time she also undertook freelance consultant Social Work with Deaf Children and their Families/Carers – specifically in complex child protection cases.

Yasmin moved to NSPCC, Tower Hamlets Young Peoples Centre in 2005, where she supported young people through, one to one, a variety of different group work programmes, drop-in sessions and young people's participation. She also continued her safeguarding work with deaf children and established services for deaf children and young people. Yasmin started a new position at the NSPCC as the Safeguarding Advisor for Deaf Children and Young People, where her role is to promote the safeguarding of all deaf children.

Yasmin set up and continues to coordinate the development of the service 'Deaf with Cancer' and is a trustee for 'Deaf Parenting UK'.

Louise Fitzgerald, Senior Early Years Educator at a school for the deaf



Born in Cardiff to a hearing family, Louise Fitzgerald has a passion for working with deaf children. She considers herself fortunate that her family have always encouraged her to mix with other deaf members of the community. She is the mother of three deaf children, with her fourth due this autumn.

After studying in the North she was recruited to work for Tyne Tees TV where she stayed until meeting her current partner and beginning their family. Louise graduated with honours from Bath Spa University this year with a degree in Early Years and intends to work in the field of education, specialising in the education of deaf children.

This Action Research study focuses on the current provision for deaf parents and aims to highlight the issues of dissemination and compatibility of services for deaf parents. The study will also determine whether the agencies that are designed to meet the needs of a cross section of parents are actually accessible by the deaf parents in the community. The report addresses the current issues and makes recommendations on how the agencies can best approach deaf parents in a way that meets their needs and to ensure that the provision of services complies with recent legislation and reflects the findings of recent researches on the needs of deaf parents and their children.

The study will also examine whether the introduction of the Disability Equality Duty (DED) has promoted equality for deaf parents and made the services more accessible. It is the primary aim of this report to address the lack of accessibility and to initiate partnership between the agencies and deaf parents.

Natalie Salmon, Head of Equality and Diversity, Nursing & Midwifery Council



Natalie is currently Head of Equality and Diversity at the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), a role established in September 2007 to manage the NMC's Equality and Diversity unit and its work of embedding equality and diversity into all areas of the NMC. Natalie's work includes training all staff in equality and diversity including how to use Equality Impact Assessment for managers, setting up an expert panel of disabled people to inform the NMC's work and establishing a joint healthcare regulator forum on equality and diversity to share good practice and develop closer working between regulators.

Previously Natalie was Head of Services and Transport at the Disability Rights Commission where amongst other things; she managed the DRC's housing strategy, which included writing national guidance on the disability equality duty for social landlords. Natalie also co-ordinated the revision of the Part 3 Code of Practice for the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005.

Before joining the DRC Natalie worked for the Mayor of London in the Stakeholders Team where she lead on the European Year of Disabled People, which included establishing Liberty, as the first annual disability rights and arts festival in London. In this role Natalie also worked on many projects and events, which celebrated London's diverse communities.

Natalie has also worked for the Royal National Institute of the Blind managing a research project with Moorfields Eye Hospital as part of a secondment from the Employment Service where Natalie was a Disability Employment Advisor. Natalie started her career as a Drama and English teacher.

The outline for her presentation is:

- The Nursing and Midwifery Council - who we are and what we do
- Equality and diversity at the NMC - a very brief over view of our role and responsibilities including our expert panel of disabled and deaf people
- Nursing and midwifery and the good health standards - work we are doing to encourage more deaf and disabled people to consider becoming nurses or midwives
- What parents can expect from a midwife - the new code of conduct including new clauses about language support for patients (including British Sign Language) and a clause which says that a nurse or midwife must demonstrate a personal and professional commitment to equality and diversity
- What to do if something goes wrong - when to get in touch with the NMC

Chair of Workshops Summary & Closing remark

Professor Alys Young, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador



Alys Young is Professor of Social Work Education and research within the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work at the University of Manchester, UK. She worked as a social worker in mental health and also with Deaf people before doing her PhD at the centre for Deaf Studies, University of Bristol, in the early 90's. She led the parent centred evaluation of the introduction of universal newborn hearing screening in England and the national evaluation of the government's Early Support Programme. She is currently working on a NDCS funded research project investigating social care provision for families with deaf children in England. She has worked as a hearing person with Deaf and deaf people for 20 years.

Workshops

Deborah Jamieson OBE, Programme Director for Health-Led Parenting and First Years of Life, Department of Health



Law and health background: LLB, University of London, Associate of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, appointed Magistrate, BSN in Nursing, University of the State of New York, Advanced Nurse Practitioner background, Post Graduate Certificate in Leadership, Oxford Brookes.

Head of Children, Families & Social Inclusion Programme (DH)

Aim of my role: To ensure there are adequate health support services for families with children with multiple disadvantages & focus improvement efforts to deliver Social Inclusion, Every Child Matters, National Service Framework outcomes and Health Public Service Agreements, focusing policy development to support improvement. My work programme includes addressing domestic abuse.

Lyn Frith, Director Children's Services Policy, Implementation and Research Ltd



Lyn has over 25 years experience working with vulnerable young people and their parents through both statutory and voluntary sector organisations in education and children's services. During two years secondment to the Department for Children and Families she worked with the Children's Trust policy team to support pathfinder local authorities develop new ways of working to deliver the Every Child Matters outcomes. Since April 2006, Lyn has been working as a consultant on a number of projects with the DCSF and others with a focus on commissioning and parenting. Lyn is currently supporting the DCSF Parenting Implementation Project with a focus on the West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber region

Jackie Driver, Head of Policy, Equality and Human Rights Commission



Jackie Driver is a Head of Policy at the Equality at Human Rights Commission. Her programme of work focuses on Local Government and covers a wide range of areas including strategic implementation of equality and diversity measures in areas such as regeneration, schools, housing, leisure services, health services, criminal justice, citizenship and good relations. Jackie previously worked at the Disability Rights Commission heading up the Employment and Equalities strategy. Prior to this Jackie worked within Local Government heading up strategic disability and other equality work.

Jackie is Chair of Breakthrough UK, an organisation of disabled people, aimed at improving the life chances of disabled people through employment, training and independent living opportunities. She was the secretary to the Board of Trustees of Manchester Deaf Centre from 2001 to 2006. Herself a deaf woman, Jackie has been involved in developing local, regional and national work to ensure D/deaf people get greater access to services and employment.