

## **Speakers' Profiles:**

### **Professor Waqar Ahmed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise, Middlesex University & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador**



Professor Waqar Ahmad is Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise at Middlesex University. Previously he has been the Chief Social Scientist at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Professor and Director, Centre for Research in Primary Care, University of Leeds and a senior researcher at York and Bradford universities. Ethnicity and deafness has been one of his major areas of research interest where he has conducted work supported by the Economic and Social Research Council, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Department of Health.

### **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.

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 was known for her previous work on various projects as a freelance trainer/consultant, advising on Ethnic Deaf issues, and freelance reporter/TV presenter for Deaf programmes.

In recognition of her personal and professional life, she also won the Women of the Future Voluntary Award 2008, a prestige award for women breaking the high glass ceiling, the Beacon Prize 2008 (High Commended) She has been named as one of the 13 on the first ever Muslim Women Power List 2009, Equality and Human Right Commission and Tesco Mum of the Year 2010.

### **Professor Alys Young, The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work The University of Manchester & 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.

**Anne Bristow, the Joint -Chair of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Physical Disabilities Network/ HIV/ and Sensory Network & Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services at the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham**



Anne has been the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services at the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham since November 2006. Anne is also governor of the North East London NHS Foundation Trust. She speaks regularly at local and national conferences.

Anne spent the previous six years as Director of Social Services in the London Borough of Haringey. Prior to joining Haringey, Anne was Chief Community Care Officer at the London Borough of Redbridge. During her eighteen years in Redbridge, she carried out a number of Assistant Director roles in relation to both housing and social services. Her early career included consumer and financial advice with a range of advocacy work.

Anne co-chairs the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Disabilities Committee. Since July 2004 she has taken a responsibility for Sensory Services issues and in this capacity she has been actively involved in a number of initiatives relating to people with a visual impairment.

**Surinder Sharma, National Director for Equality and Human Rights, Department of Health**



Surinder Sharma took up his post as National Director for Equality and Human Rights at the Department of Health in October 2004. Surinder has worked in the diversity field for over 30 years, gaining a reputation for success and excellence along the way. As a fully qualified lawyer, he began his career with the Commission for Racial Equality in 1978, gaining the strategic knowledge base on which his subsequent career was built. He has been a Councillor at Leicester where he chaired the Housing Committee and chaired Leicester Racial Equality Council. His career has taken him into a variety of different organizations: BBC Television, Littlewoods Retail and Ford Motor Company, where as the European Director he managed a European Team during a period of radical European transformation. He was a Commissioner at the Equal Opportunities Commission, where he chaired their Legal Committee. He is also a member of the Conference Board of the European Work Life Diversity Forum and a Trustee of the National Space Centre. He is also a member of the Ministry of Defence Diversity Panel, and a member of the Global Diversity & Inclusion Council at Novartis AG in Switzerland where he was a Consultant to the company on Diversity & Inclusion for over 3 years.

**Jeff McWhinney, Significant (UK) Ltd & Deaf Parenting UK**



Jeff McWhinney was appointed Managing Director of *Significant* (sign if I can't) in September 2004.

*Significant* is a social enterprise, working to use the latest technological advances to improve access to services for the deaf sign language communities in the UK. The company's latest development - the SignVideo Contact Centre - has won a number of prestigious awards for innovation. SignVideo is an online real time video call centre that allows deaf sign language users to communicate with hearing people, effectively and naturally, via a fully qualified sign language interpreter.

Prior to joining *Significant*, Jeff spent 10 years with the British Deaf Association as their first deaf Chief Executive.

Jeff McWhinney is a recognised leader within the UK's deaf community for the depth and breadth of his expertise and led several deaf organisations to gain advances for the deaf community, culminating in the long fought for recognition of British Sign Language as an official language in the UK in 2003.

As a deaf sign language user himself, Jeff is fully aware of the issues faced – lack of access to information and services and lack of awareness in society generally – and is therefore proud to bring interpreter provision into the 21<sup>st</sup> century through SignVideo. Jeff has a wealth of experience on deaf and videoconferencing issues, has written a number of articles and is widely consulted on these subjects in the UK and abroad.

**Dr Lesley Jones, Senior Lecturer in Social Science, Hull York Medical School, University of York & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador**



Dr. Lesley Jones is a researcher in Deaf Studies working at Hull York Medical School has published books (with Deaf researchers) on access to health care and information, ethnicity and genetics.

**Penny Allsop, Healthy Child Programme Policy Lead, Department of Health**

Penny Allsop is a team leader in the Department of Health responsible for early years policy. Most recently she has been working on the Healthy Child Programme. She has held a number of posts in the Department of Health mainly in public health and has also undertaken secondments to work in the NHS, charitable and commercial sectors.

**Nicki Jeffries, Family Nurse with Family Nurse Partnership Programme and also Partners in Parenting Education.**

Nicki Jeffries is a family Nurse with the Family Nurse Partnership Programme, works for Berkshire East Community Health Services. Nicki is also a PIPE trainer (Partners in Parenting Education) for the programme nationally. Nicki has previously worked in the community as a health visitor and has experience of engaging and working with clients who have sensory needs, most recently delivering the family nurse partnership to a young family, where both parents are deaf.

**Pat Tulloch, Chief Executive of National Association of Family Information Services**

Pat Tulloch, joined the National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS) as Chief Executive in November 2009. Previously she was Director of an independent voluntary sector led children centre. She has over twenty years experience within the voluntary sector most notably the founding Director of a London based Council of Voluntary Services (CVS) and has a strong track record of influencing and managing change. She has held a wide range of positions including seven years as a trainer with Shelter and as a consultant. She is in the process of joining a national childminding as a trustee, and is a mother and grandmother. Pat believes that Family Information Services have an important role to play in ensuring that their services are accessible to all parents.

**Facilitators:**



**Sibaji Panda, ISLanDs, University of Central Lancashire**

Sibaji Panda is a Deaf Indian who has been actively involved in the training and education of the Deaf in India for many years. He was the first person to teach Indian Sign Language interpreters and sign language teachers in a formal classroom in a government-approved program in India. Sibaji received his Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from the University of New England, Australia, and is now pursuing a PhD. He is currently a lecturer in Applied Linguistics at the International Institute for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, and is course leader for the BA in Applied Sign Language Studies. In addition, he is general secretary of the Deaf Empowerment Foundation ([www.def-intl.org](http://www.def-intl.org)) and a board member of the Sign Language Linguistics Society ([www.slls.eu](http://www.slls.eu)).



**Sunil Sahasrabudhe, ISLanDs, University of Central Lancashire**

Sunil Sahasrabudhe is Deaf and a native signer of Indian Sign Language (ISL). He is a qualified and experienced teacher of both ISL and English. After completing a B.Ed. in special education in India, he is now undertaking a Research Master's degree at the International Institute for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies, University of Central Lancashire in Preston. Sunil is Director of Programmes at the Mumbai-based Ishara Foundation ([www.ishara.org](http://www.ishara.org)), a grassroots NGO that runs English literacy classes and a peer education programme conducted in nine local Deaf schools.

### **Penny Beschizza, Deaf Parenting UK Trustee**



Penny Beschizza is a parent of two grown-up children, who has never forgotten her early days as a Deaf mum. She has worked in the post-16 education sector for over twenty years, working with young Deaf people from disadvantaged backgrounds and additional disabilities. She also taught BSL and Deaf Awareness Training. In her voluntary role, she is involved with supporting access and equality for Deaf TV viewers and is currently on the board of the British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust. She is also in Signs of God, a BSL training organisation that promotes high quality BSL access for Deaf people attending church. Penny is a versatile campaigner and advocate, believing in widening participation of Deaf people in society. She supports DPUK's work for this reason.

### **Simeon Hart, Deaf Parenting UK Trustee (Treasurer)**

Simeon is profoundly Deaf and was brought up by his Deaf parents. In addition, he is the Deaf parent of two hearing boys, Zachary (ages 6) and Reuben (ages nearly 3). He enjoys playing with children due to his past experience when three friends asked him as their godfathers. He is married to a well-known performer, Denise Armstrong and now nearly 9 years together!

Simeon is a resourcing specialist, nearly 20 years experience including ten years within charity sector, four years in voluntary sector, five years in education sector from middle to senior management - involving in project management, event management, organisational development, recruitment, strategy, business development, fund raising, coaching and mentoring, process / system evaluation, design and improvement are areas that compliment my core experience.

Furthermore, he is an accomplished businessman with demonstrated ability to teach, motivate, and direct people while maintaining high interest and achievement. Articulate communicator able to effectively interact with diverse populations of people at a variety of business level and consistently maintain excellent relations with partners. What he achieved throughout his career through gained qualifications in Masters' Degree in Social Enterprise, Certificate in Education and HND in Computer Studies, he always believe that Deaf parents can achieve their goals whatever they want to do for their living

He is proud to be the Treasurer of this wonderful organisation, Deaf Parenting UK and looks forward to be your facilitator for the afternoon workshop.