



## Election of Trustees and Directors - Candidate Statements

### Trustees coopted by the board since the last AGM

Ali Richards

As a nurse I have excellent communication skills and this enables me to teach and facilitate other nurses and health professionals at the University of Cumbria where I currently work. During my eight-year stint as a board member of the Royal College of Nursing I gained experience in contributing to the governance of the organisation as well as working on sub-committees. I also bring previous board experience from two organisations in the third sector, including as a communications director for a charity in North Yorkshire. I mentored Chief Executives of various charities and businesses in the charity sector during my time with a CIC in Blackburn called Community and Business Partners. I have also worked as chair of a board of governors of a primary school and worked on a variety of co created and collaborative networks looking at areas such as research into diverse leadership and consulting in mental health organisations.

I pride myself on my attention to valuing diversity and the contribution of communities. Community organisations should expect trustees to be honest brokers between the organisation and the community and to work collaboratively and in partnership with all stakeholders in the organisation. I am a firm believer that every community has the ability to address its own issues and needs given enough support.

## Emma Brant

Emma has had a wide variety of experience in her working life – from design, teaching, then retraining as an AAT qualified accountant. She has set up an accountancy practice with a focus on sustainability and is managing a decarbonisation plan for a current client, alongside accountancy work. However, she is keenly aware, that without social justice, communities and individuals won't be able to work towards sustainability. A lifelong volunteer, Emma has volunteered in guiding and mental health charities in the past.

She believes that with her experience, she can support LDCVS to maintain and develop a vibrant community and voluntary sector for the local area.

## Anthony Murray

For over two decades, I've been part of the third sector, working up close with people from all walks of life. My heart's been especially in the social care sector over the past 10 years at Specialist Care Team, where as Development Director I work with people dealing with mental health and learning disabilities across Lancaster and Morecambe. Through my role, I've been able to work directly with communities to understand and help people with real challenges.

In my former role as an Executive Editor for the co-operative sector's monthly magazine, I honed my skills in creating and managing communication strategies. I led a team in producing impactful content and engaging diverse audiences. My experience at Specialist Care Team allows me to blend my technical and interpersonal skills, ensuring smooth operations and fostering community engagement.

I believe these skills, along with my commitment to innovation and practical problem-solving, make me an ideal candidate for the trustee position, ready to make a tangible difference in our charity's journey.