






LASSN TRUSTEES January 2024


Existing Trustees

<p>Nicolle Levine Chair of Trustees</p> 	<p>Having been involved with Grace Hosting for four years from 2016 both as a host and co-ordinator, matching guests with hosts, I was happy to contribute to the governance of LASSN by becoming a trustee, and more recently, Chair. Being part of a voluntary sector organisation supporting asylum seekers, is close to my heart, my grandfather having been granted asylum in the UK when he escaped the pogroms in Poland.</p> <p>My professional background is in teaching hearing impaired children and later moving into voluntary sector management and counselling. I founded a charity for children with special needs, managed the Leeds Women's Counselling and Therapy Service and continue to work as a counsellor and supervisor.</p> <p>My other passions are my family and friends, playing the violin, racketball, yoga and theatre.</p>
<p>Ian Garforth Vice Chair of Trustees</p> 	<p>After retiring from work, I became a volunteer with LASSN at the start of the 2019, as a befriender and with the connecting opportunities project.</p> <p>I have always supported efforts to support and integrate refugees into our society and have welcomed the possibility of supporting the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in the practical way which LASSN provides.</p> <p>I have long and varied experience as a trustee, director and chair of various charitable organisations in relation to education, young people and communities. I have also worked extensively with UK and developing country governments and NGO's during my professional career in trade facilitation and risk management.</p> <p>Since being elected as a trustee of LASSN I believe that the knowledge and experience I have gained professionally and from previous voluntary work has been helpful to the LASSN Board of Trustees, particularly in helping to secure the financial and organisational basis on which LASSN can continue, and expand, where appropriate, its essential and highly valued support services.</p>

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<p>Sven Ekblom Treasurer</p> 	<p>I was co-opted in March 2021 as the Treasurer for LASSN. I have been an associate of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants for many years, in addition to spending much of my career in Finance roles.</p> <p>I first came into contact with LASSN when my wife, friends and I were organizing some Sports Relief fundraising and events for asylum seekers in Leeds – we contacted LASSN to ask for some valuable advice and support, and I have been so impressed since with all the work that LASSN does.</p> <p>I hope to add my contribution to LASSN through the duties of the Treasurer, in particular by ensuring strong financial governance, so LASSN can continue to improve the lives of its service users for many years to come.</p>
<p>Dr Deborah Murdoch Eaton</p> 	<p>I retired from clinical medical practice (Paediatrician) and an academic position as Dean of Sheffield Medical School in 2020. Retirement was planned with a purposeful intention to have capacity to usefully contribute to the CVS in areas close to my heart, and to which I would anticipate my breadth of skills and experience may be valuable. LASSN was a key organization that had been my intention to offer my services.</p> <p>I have personal experience of the asylum process, initially as a 3rd generation Zimbabwean and then again with my mother who was later displaced in 2003.</p> <p>The duality of my professional roles provided not only experiences of working within health care, but also the educational, academic and administrative skills from within university roles. These underpinned much of my international professional work, predominantly within African health care schools. I value the opportunity to contribute to the work of LASSN as a trustee, and hope that my background and skills are considered of use.</p>
<p>Helen Radelaar</p> 	<p>I hugely value my role as a LASSN Trustee. It gives me a chance to support an organisation that does so much for refugees and asylum seekers directly both by the support it gives directly to people and its support of the wider networks.</p> <p>A bit about me. My parents were Dutch. Because of my father's job my early years were fairly nomadic, living in six different countries and attending eight different schools before the age of 12. I settled in England after completing my studies in Psychology. My career was spent in NHS Mental Health services both as a therapist/clinician and a service manager.</p> <p>Since my retirement I have enjoyed the luxury of free time to volunteer, walk my dogs, craft, see friends and travel.</p>

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<p>Mahmoud El Saboni</p>	<p>I am a Syrian engineer and construction manager, living in Leeds with my family. I speak and write fluently in both Arabic and English</p> <p>I used to get help from a LASSN volunteer and am now a LASSN volunteer myself. I was co-opted by the Trustee Board in November 2018, and since then I have served on the Finance Sub Committee.</p> <p>I am particularly keen for LASSN to consolidate its connections with the different migrant community organizations of Leeds and to tap into the skills, understanding and experiences of the different faith communities of Leeds, and the Muslim communities in particular.</p> <p>I bring 30 years of project management and academic experience, that I gained managing megaconstruction projects in the Middle East. My work has been published in well-known scientific journals and international conference papers. I will ensure the organisation is run well, and that risks are adequately assessed and managed. I have a keen eye for detail and want to ensure that LASSN plans its activities well and stays true to its mission and values.</p>
<p>Steve Maw</p> 	<p>I qualified as a social worker in 1989 and have since worked in the probation service, youth justice service and children's social work service in a wide variety of practioner, team manager and senior manager roles. My most recent position was as service manager for fostering and placements in children's social work.</p> <p>My involvement with asylum seekers came through social work. I managed a team of social workers responsible for children in care. An increasing number were unaccompanied asylum seeker children. The team picked up these children either following planned moves from Kent or in emergency situations when they were 'found' in Leeds. As a way of engaging with these children I set up a football group in Sept 17, this has been really successful and for the last two seasons I have run a team in a local league.</p> <p>I took early retirement in Nov 20 although I now have two part time jobs in the voluntary sector, one involving the inspection of children's homes, the other as a reviewing officer for foster care. These roles take up three days per week allowing sufficient time for me to pursue other interests.</p>

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New Trustees

Ceri Riddell



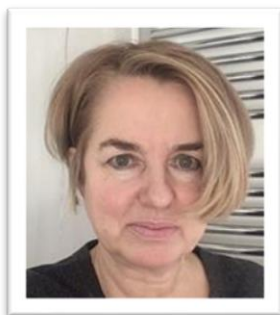
At eighteen, I moved to Leeds to study Sociology at University of Leeds. I had never stepped foot in Yorkshire before my first day at university, having lived in the Netherlands since I was 12 years old. But I loved Yorkshire so much that I have stayed here ever since!

During my time as a student, I volunteered as an English teacher with LASSN (from 2013 until 2017). I found the entire experience incredibly rewarding; being able to help the lady I was partnered with integrate and feel empowered was fantastic.

I am very excited to be a trustee for a charity I know does such fantastic work. I previously worked in Marketing roles for seven years. Recently, I pivoted into a role as a Business Intelligence Developer (a fancy title meaning someone who codes and looks at data) at Leeds Building Society. As a result, I feel I have Marketing, PR, IT skills and corporate ties that will benefit LASSN.

In my spare time, I love reading (I normally read about 52 books a year), going to the gym and hanging out with my miniature Jack Russell called Bernie.

Lisa Martin



I was elected as a City Councillor in Leeds in May 2021, and was appointed to be support executive member for employment and the economy in 2022. I am also a member of the Children's and Families Scrutiny Board, responsible for holding the Council to account for its services to children, including education and social work services. I have used this position to raise the issue of the impact of the changes brought in by latest Immigration Act on children in our city. I have also ensured that this issue is again on the Children and Families Scrutiny Board work programme for discussion 2024.

During my local government career as an officer I led a London Borough's welfare rights team, worked in Leeds' corporate policy team, led the team supporting the service improvement for our children's centres and then later led the data intelligence team that supported children's services to gain their "outstanding" Ofsted judgement.

I also worked as an advisor at Chapeltown Citizen's Advice and taught at the Swarthmore centre.

I believe that we should be supporting those who have suffered the traumas of being forced to leave their homes, families and cultures, with kindness as well as practical advice and help.