

## **Voscur Annual General Meeting – 31 January 2019**

Voscur Board of Trustee nominations and personal statements

Alphabetical by Nominee Surname

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**Nominee:** **Sian Jones**

Organisation: n/a - individual

Nominated by: n/a

### **Personal statement:**

I would like to support VOSCUR's work, sharing my skills and getting involved in the community. I have spent nearly 30 years in the NHS since qualifying as a nurse, half as a senior manager. As a commissioner at Bristol CCG, I commissioned services from the voluntary sector. I came to understand the value of VOSCUR, working with Mark Hubbard to support a small charity struggling to deliver our contract.

Skills include:

- change management/strategic planning
- evaluation - I am a strong advocate, recognising the value this can add to show how a service or intervention does what it says
- managing projects
- stakeholder engagement

If appointed as a Trustee, I am keen to get involved in activities beyond the Board to better understand the day to day experience and challenges of the voluntary sector. I would welcome opportunities to go 'into the field', to support VOSCUR colleagues as appropriate and beneficial.

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**Nominee:** **Alex Kittow**

Organisation: Southmead Development Trust

Nominated by: Southmead Development Trust

**(Serving Board Member standing for re-election)**

### **Personal statement:**

I am passionate about Bristol & ensuring Bristol has a thriving voluntary sector. I have led the Southmead Development Trust for the last 8 years and understand the importance and challenges of strong governance and sustainable funding streams to keep a charity focused on its purpose. Southmead Development Trust primarily operates the Greenway Centre which is a large community centre, social enterprise hub & healthy living centre based on the site of an old secondary school in Southmead. The trust also runs the local youth centre, community activities and projects seeking to address health inequalities.

I believe having a strong, local infrastructure organisation in Bristol is vital to ensure our sector is heard, valued and funded. I will ensure the sector is well represented

within Voscur and I will also advocate for Voscur to not compete with its members. I have been a Voscur board member for the last 3 years and believe we need to continue to evolve to be fit for the future and to serve where most needed.

I studied Mechanical Engineering at Bristol University and started my career as a project manager with the MOD buying gadgets for the special forces. I then moved to Tanzania with my wife as part of a team of teachers and engineers establishing a vocational training centre teaching car mechanics, computing and English. On returning to Bristol I started with the Southmead Development Trust. We now have 4 boys and I'm passionate about my faith, my family and spear fishing.

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**Nominee:** **Di Robinson**

Organisation: n/a – individual

Nominated by: Southmead Development Trust

**Personal statement:**

I am committed to supporting and developing the role of the voluntary sector in the city and city region and would like to offer my support, skills and experience as a Trustee for Voscur. Having worked in Bristol for 30 years in the public, private and voluntary sector, I know the city well and have a deep understanding and respect for the Voluntary sector and its role, both now and in the future, in delivering a thriving, fairer and more equal city. I have a strong sense of the challenges facing the sector and having spent some years at senior level in public services, have a good understanding of the strategic and city context in which Voscur needs to operate. I have skills and experience in partnership and cooperative working, community development, delivering complex projects, strategic and business planning, problem solving and organisational development.

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**Nominee:** **Sam Thomson**

Organisation: Ardagh Community Trust

Nominated by: Ardagh Community Trust

**Personal statement:**

I am committed to supporting improved outcomes for communities across the city. I believe the role of Voscur is crucial in representing the interests of our communities and working with (and challenging, where necessary) the local authority and wider stakeholders to advocate for the importance of the work that the myriad of charities and voluntary organisations in the city are engaged in.

I have skills and experience – developed through previous charity board membership and my previous experience working in the higher education sector - in fundraising, volunteer engagement, organisational development, project

management, digital media, ethical practices and social enterprise. If appointed, I believe that I would be able to fulfill the requirements of this role and support the board to work effectively at a crucial time for the voluntary and charities sector in the city.

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**Nominee:** **Suzanne Thompson**

**Organisation:** The Restore Trust

**Nominated by:** The Restore Trust

**(Serving Board Member standing for re-election)**

**Personal statement:**

Suzanne is a qualified Senior Probation Officer and has over 20 years' experience in the Criminal Justice & the Education, Training & Employment sector. She is committed to raising the profile of the voluntary and third sector in the local community and with funders and commissioners. She is currently CEO of The Restore Trust, a not for profit social enterprise based in Bristol.

She has managed the multiple award winning Education, Training & Employment team at Avon & Somerset Probation Trust for 13 years & in that period, alongside a dedicated team, implemented a number of innovative partnership projects to address the barriers to learning & employment experienced by ex-offenders & the long term unemployed. Suzanne is passionate about addressing the rising levels of inequality in our local communities and the important role of the 3rd sector to help achieve this.

Previously, she worked for the Learning & Skills Council and managed an award winning project called the Northern Arc Training & Employment project which won a national industry award for excellent practice.

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