

Karen Pirks

Trustee and Operations Lead



I have lived in Selsey for twelve years having moved from Brighton and consider Selsey as my home. My background is working in Adult Social Care mostly in management and development work. I have developed and worked as Registered Manager of services for people with learning disability, autism, epilepsy, complex and mental health care needs. In the last 10 years I have worked for West Sussex County Council previously as Day Service Management and Interim Care Services. I am now working full time as Partnerships Officer for the Learning and Development Commissioning Team and as Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Consultant. My responsibilities are to identify any training gaps across the adult and social care sectors and work in partnership to fill those gaps. This has enabled WSCC to provide knowledge based training around fundamental core care skills. Having a 30 year background in care provision in the private sector mostly in management promoting good practice is critical when supporting vulnerable people. Introducing many of my networks from organisations such as hospices, education, business networks, colleagues in Public Health and Fire Service and the NHS I have been able to support the charity in developing and delivering on its business plan. Two years of being responsible for developing the Apprenticeship Levy Transfer process and spending it. I have expanded my networks across other business sectors within West Sussex and allocated £1million in supporting businesses utilise the apprenticeship qualification. I sit on a number of steering groups with WSCC and the CCG's to provide a realistic link and dialogue to underpin strategic planning (end of life care/frailty/compassionate communities/Joint Dementia Strategy/Strategic Employers Boards). I facilitate Community and Care Management Forums and lead on a WSCC Education and Training Partnership Group Meeting. This ensures a collaborative approach to health and social care across our services.

I began working with Selsey Community Forum four years ago and initiated the process of becoming a Dementia Action Alliance. I continue to support the staff and volunteers with the operational side of the organisation working on policies, procedures, training and risk assessments. I meet monthly with the team and carry out regular audits at the Selsey Care Shop. I recently led with our Charity Administrator on the Selsey Covid19 Mutual Aid project earlier this year to provide the Buddy System throughout lockdown. I am passionate about working with the charity and will work hard and collaboratively in finding solutions to support the charity in its endeavours to enable a compassionate and safe community.