

ALISON LOWE OBE

Personal Statement

I was appointed the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for West Yorkshire in June 2021, following 17 years as Chief Executive of a medium-size mental health charity, Touchstone, where it was my privilege to deliver excellent services, serving the needs of around 11,000 people from across the diverse communities of West and South Yorkshire, every year.

Since my appointment to the role of DMPC by the Mayor, Tracy Brabin, I have successfully supported her to deliver her Police and Crime Plan priorities. In doing so, I believe I have helped to build a more just, safe and inclusive West Yorkshire, evidenced by recruitment of the highest number of Black and Minority Ethnic police officers ever, in the force; implementation and good progress on the delivery of the Police Race Action Plan, and development and delivery of force-wide and WYCA-led VAWG strategies.

I have substantial voluntary sector and local government knowledge and experience built up over 29 years as a local councillor, which has made me an ideal person to contribute and influence at the highest level. Before becoming DMPC, I chaired the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel for 5 years, holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account alongside 13 other members from across the political spectrum and I also chaired the Yorkshire and Humber Employers Committee for 9 years which is the regional negotiating body for local authorities on pay, terms and conditions.

Education

Inst. Leadership and Management	Diploma in Leadership, Mentoring and Executive Coaching, Level 7
Leeds University	MA Medieval Studies
Leeds University	History BA (Hons) 2:1
Parklands Girls High School	3 A Levels, 6 O' Levels

Work Experience

Sharing Voices Bradford: Interim CEO

Responsibilities:

Sharing Voices is a BAME mental health charity which commissioners invited me in to manage, during a period of change. I successfully turned SVB around in less than 6 months and it is now going from strength to strength.

Touchstone: Chief Executive

Responsibilities:

- Providing leadership and strategic direction for the organisation and 350 staff and volunteers.
- Managing £9.2 million budget
- Strategic Business Planning and delivery of objectives
- Ensuring appropriate governance arrangements in place
- Overseeing and reporting on performance and contract management
- Developing and maintaining partnerships and knowledge sharing to support achievement of above.
- Ensuring Health and Safety, Information Governance and Risk Management arrangements are sound and in place.
- Policy development and review

Foundation Housing: Service Director

Responsibilities:

- Providing senior management to 5 West Yorkshire Teams providing 1000 units of supported housing to ex-offenders under a West Yorkshire Probation contract
Managed £5 million budget and 120 staff
Lead Supporting People Manager
Responsible for risk assessment and management of prolific, high risk and mentally disordered offenders in the community.
Responsible for development of new and existing services

Foundation Housing: Team Manager in Calderdale, Bradford, Leeds

Responsibilities:

- Managed various West Yorkshire Teams to deliver supported housing to ex-offenders.
- Managed and set annual Team Budgets
- Identified and pursued appropriate development opportunities for staff

Foundation Housing: Housing Support Worker

St Anne's Community Services: Day Care Officer

Training

I have undertaken a range of relevant training over the years including:

GDPR/Information Governance
Health and Safety/Risk Assessment
Finance and Budget setting
Strategic Business Planning
Equal
Opportunities/Diversity/EQIA

Common Purpose 1993-4
ILM level 7 Leadership and Executive Coaching 2008
ACEVO membership/leadership development
Challenging Leaders Peer Group 2013-17
Kings Fund Cascading Leadership Programme 2018-2021
Windsor Castle Association of Leadership Fellows January 2020-2023
Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative 2022-23

Other Experience

1992 – current Trustee Wooden Spoon Fundraising Committee and national trustee 2011-2021.
1990 – May 2019 Leeds City Councillor (Armley)
2005 – Member of Forum Central, Chair 2018 -2021
2012 - current Board member Leeds CAB
2008 – Member/Chair Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Service 2010-21
2009 – current Together Women Trustee
2015- 2019 Chair Yorkshire and Humber Employers' Committee
2012 - May 2019 Member and Chair, West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2020 – Chair Leeds Statues Review
2020 – Chair BAME VCSE Review Panel into Health Inequalities (led by the ICS).
2020 – current NED Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust
2021 – current Blue Light Commercial Director

I was Deputy Lord Mayor of Leeds in 2003 – 2004 and was made an Honorary Alderwoman of the city in January 2020 after 29 years' service. In this role, I led the review of statues in Leeds during Summer 2020. In June 2022, I received an OBE and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Leeds University.