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children
 Barnardo's

THE BARNARDO'S FOUNDATION

Grant Making Board Members





Richard Simpson (Chair), Head of Safeguarding and Quality

Richard qualified as a Social Worker in 1990 and worked for almost five years in Child Protection before moving to Barnardo's. In his 27 years at Barnardo's, he has worked as a Social Worker, Children's Services Manager, and operational Assistant Director. He joined the Safeguarding and Quality Team in 2018 as the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Historical Abuse, a post he undertook until May 2020 when he began the role of Interim Head of Safeguarding and Quality. He secured the substantive post in January 2021. In addition to his Barnardo's roles, he has:

- Chaired the Cumbrian Safeguarding Board on an interim basis and the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Board on a substantive basis
- Been a Trustee for a number of Charities and Not-for-profit Organisations including his local Foodbank and the Cumbria Community Foundation

He is married with two adult children, keeps fit by running and cycling and is a long-standing Liverpool Football Club fan!



Ali Didar Head of Philanthropy, Trusts, and Special Events

Ali's expertise is in fundraising from major donors and Trusts/Foundations, which he has been doing for the best part of two decades. Holding various roles for some wonderful charities, he has raised over £10million for various causes across the UK.

Outside of fundraising, he loves to play sports, including football, badminton, and cycling. His biggest passion is following his favourite football team, Manchester United, where he is a proud season ticket holder.

Ali joined Barnardo's in June 2021 as a Senior Trusts Manager and in March 2022 was promoted to the Head of Philanthropy, Trusts, and Special Events (PTSE) role. He also actively volunteers for the Race Equality Network as Co-Chair of the London region and was recently recognised by his peers in the Fundraising and Marketing Awards 2022 with the Outstanding Leadership Award.



Remi Martins-Tonks

Head of Data and Insight

Remi has spent the last 10 years working the field of economics and data analysis. He currently works as Head of Data and Insight at Barnardo's and is responsible for improving the Charity's data capability. One of Remi's previous roles as Barnardo's Economist included undertaking work to bring greater transparency to the Charity's use of voluntary funds and resource allocation.



Steve Oversby

Interim Corporate Director Children's Service

Steve is a member of Barnardo's Corporate Leadership Team and collaborates with colleagues to ensure a charity wide focus on our core mission of delivering better outcomes for more children.

Steve has worked for Barnardo's for over 20 years, with the last 10 as a Regional Director focusing on our delivery of services to children, young people, and families. Currently, Steve is Interim Corporate Director and has responsibility for overseeing the development and delivery of over 800 Children's Services across the 4-nations of the UK. This large and diverse portfolio of health and social care work is also focussed on partnership working, influencing and system change at local and national level. Steve works closely with his team of Region and Nation Directors with the Head of Corporate Safeguarding and Quality to oversee our strategic priorities of building Stronger Families, Safer Childhoods, and Positive Futures for all the children, young people, and families we work with.





Michele Janes

Director of Barnardo's Northern Ireland

Michele is the Director of Barnardo's Northern Ireland having previously held Assistant Director of Children's Services, Safeguarding Lead and CSM roles within Barnardo's Northern Ireland. Michele is a qualified Social Worker (2003) with an MSC in Applied Social Sciences (2016) combined with Strategy and Leadership. Registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council, Michele has been employed in social care and social work leadership and management roles across the statutory and voluntary sector, in community, residential and commissioning environments, in Scotland and Northern Ireland for over 25 years.

Michele has extensive senior management and leadership experience. This includes service design and delivery; risk, programme, financial and property management; personnel and performance management and has led on significant change management processes. Michele is a member of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland; the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership; Co-chair of the Third Sector Social Work Leadership Group and is on the board of directors of Children in Northern Ireland.



Emma Bowman

Director Children's Services – South East and London Regions

Emma has over 20 years' experience in the children's social care sector supporting children, young people, and their families. As a qualified Social Worker Emma joined Barnardo's in 2007 from a career in statutory Social Work having worked within the fields of child protection, child health and disability. Having progressed in the charity from front line roles in practice to management and senior leadership across children's services, Emma has led various regions in England on behalf of Barnardo's and is currently Director of Children's Services with oversight of the South East and London regions. With a passion for holistic Family Support, children's rights and restorative strengths-based approaches, Emma is committed to ensuring needs led support is developed for the children, young people, their families, and the communities we serve.





Rukshana Kapasi

Director of Health

Rukshana has been working in the NHS and charitable sector for the last 30 years as a commissioner, clinician, senior leader, and Board member. She has stimulated some key directional changes in the public sector such as doing research which led to the introduction of PALs into every hospital in England, Patient Choice in primary care and ethnicity monitoring to improve health inequalities.

Rukshana is now Barnardo's first Director of Health, appointed to transform the organisation to a health and social care provider. Rukshana is a keen advocate of inclusive organisational cultures and promoting the benefits of diversity has been pivotal to all her work. She has published widely in the field of health inequalities.



Richard Graham

Director Barnardo's Foundation

Richard Graham is currently the Director of the Barnardo's Foundation. Prior to that he was a Director of the Education Partnerships Group and Head of Education at Save the Children. He spent 20 years at Comic Relief leading its international grants programme and has also spent a number of years living and working for voluntary sector organisations in Egypt, Sudan, and Afghanistan. He is a governor at Thomas Tallis Secondary School with a focus on learning and achievement and volunteers as a youth leader at the Woodcraft Folk and as an Independent Visitor for care experienced young people. Richard lives in London with his partner and two daughters and has a grown-up son living in east London.

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