

UNITE Board of Directors Profiles

Jenny Shepherd **Chair**

Jenny joined the Board of UNITE in 2004 and became the Chair in 2008. She has 25 years of experience in Local Government Social Care becoming an Assistant Director of Social Services in Redcar and Cleveland in 1997. After taking early retirement, she covered the maternity leave of UNITE's CEO, learning about the business, its great strengths but also its vulnerability to funding changes.

Jenny is also a member of the Board of Erimus Housing, a member of Middlesbrough LINK and a LINK nominated Governor of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Clare Butterfield **Vice-chair**

Clare joined the Board of UNITE in September 2005. Her most recent work role involved a range of core competencies and skills involved in managing people; undertaking and managing inspections; specific project management; writing strategies, reports, Cabinet papers, briefing papers; monitoring progress against action plans; budgeting and the development of and participation in a range of external partnerships. Clare has an excellent working relationship with such partners/organisations and never misses an opportunity to plug UNITE's excellent services!

Clare has managed teams at operational and strategic levels since 1992 but has never forgotten her roots as a practising environmental health officer experiencing front line neighbour nuisance complaints first hand. Her interest in UNITE commenced in 1996 when she trained and practised as a community mediator and in 2003 achieved the Competent Mediator Award. Clare's career in delivering and managing local authority services has allowed her to bring that experience to the Board of Directors by sharing the good and the bad in order to contribute to the continued development and improvement of UNITE's services.

Gillian Dobson
Treasurer

Gillian has been a Board member since 16 August 2001. She is a Chartered Accountant and has a Diploma in Charities Accounting. She has been a director and treasurer of Unite since 2001, and has also been a non-executive director of a sixth form college. Gillian is currently Finance Director of Tees Valley Leisure Limited, where she is responsible for Finance, Human Resources, IT and Governance for the Industrial and Provident Society which operates leisure facilities for the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland. Gillian previously worked for Tees Valley TEC and the Learning and Skills Council.

Stephen Twist
Company Secretary

Stephen has been a Board member since 2002. He has practiced as a barrister since 1979 in London, York and Newcastle. He hosted and completed CEDR Mediation Training in 1999, Advanced Commercial Mediation training in 2001 and the Competent Mediator Award in 2003. Stephen has triple qualification as barrister; he is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and practices as a mediator in the commercial, family finance, community and employment fields. He was a guest presenter on 'ADR Systems for the Public Sector' at the CEDR National Conference 2000 and is a former member of CEDR's Public Sector Working Party. Joining UNITE as a volunteer mediator in 2001.

Henrietta Wallace
Director

Henrietta has been a Board member since 2003. She trained as a mediator with UNITE in 2002 and worked there as a volunteer and as a part-time member of staff until 2007. She has been a member of the UNITE Board since 2003. Prior to her move to North Yorkshire in 2001, Henrietta worked in London for 12 years as a Research Manager on a number of health-related research projects. This included four years at the BMA researching and advising the medical profession on medical ethics and a further two-and-a-half years with the voluntary organisation, the Public Law Project, carrying out the first independent, national evaluation of the (then new) NHS complaints procedure. It was during this project that her interest in mediation as a means of dispute resolution was kindled. Since August 2007, Henrietta has been a Non-Executive Director at South Tees University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Chris Fields
Director

Chris has been a Board member since 12 September 2008. She worked in local government housing management from 1974 until 1980. From 1982 until 1989 she worked part time in the wholesale sector whilst jointly rearing her son Gary (now an independent 28 year old) with husband Peter, returning to the housing sector in 1990 until 1999. During this time Chris's roles included Homelessness Officer, Estate Management Coordinator (working with the first Tenant Management Board in the Redcar & Cleveland area), Private Sector Leasing Coordinator developing and managing supported housing schemes in partnership with two housing associations and three local authorities within the Tees Valley area, and Tenancy Relations Advisor, dealing with tenancy related issues including anti-social behaviour, nuisance and harassment, both procedural and policy. Chris is currently the Community Safety Manager for Hambleton District Council, a post she has held for the last nine years, and is responsible for the development, implementation and delivery of the Community Safety Strategy.

Rev. Dr. David Whiting
Director

David has been a Board member since 25 September 2007. His first career was in scientific research. He has a degree and a doctorate in Chemistry. He changed careers twenty-two years ago when, after theological study, he was ordained a minister in the United Reformed Church. Since then David has had a diverse ministry, mainly pastoral, but he has also been involved in theological education and currently is community chaplain in Stockton. He is also senior chaplain for Tees Valley Ministry, which coordinates industrial mission in the Tees Valley.

David is faith representative on the Board of Stockton's Catalyst, Chair of the Tees Valley Faith Communities Regeneration Group, a member of the North East Inter-Faith Task Group, Secretary of Thrive, which is an action research project tackling poverty and interfaith advisor for the United Reformed Church Synod.

Linda Laidler
Director

Linda has been a Board member since 30 October 2003. She worked within the training sector for unemployed youths and adults from 1985 to 2004 and was involved in a large number of government initiatives. Linda has dealt with all sectors of the community, particularly the long-term unemployed and those with special needs and the disadvantaged.

Linda then worked within the health sector as Co-ordinator for Tees Valley Counselling Trust, a small charity that provides free counselling to children and adults who have a chronic illness, disability or are carers, and was responsible for managing the day-to-day business and accessing funding to maintain the work of the Trust. Although now retired from work Linda is Vice Chair of the Norton School Humanities College and chairs their

staffing and finance committee and is a magistrate at Teesside sitting on the adult, family and community justice benches.

**Paul Frankland MSc MIFireE
Director**

Paul has been a Board member since 29 January 2008. Paul is Assistant Vice President of Sembcorp Protection Group on Teesside, which is responsible for protecting high hazard manufacturing assets in the Tees Valley. He is directly responsible for all aspects of Operations, Engineering, Marketing and Business Development, and is a member of the Group's executive team that has an annual budget responsibility in excess of £200 million. Paul is currently focused on achieving strategic business growth and is spearheading the Group's drive to expand its interests in Eastern Europe. Paul is an Executive Member and Director of the Joint Oil & Industry Fire Forum, and his entire career has been spent in the emergency response arena and chemical manufacturing. Paul is a Non Executive Director of his wife's nursery business (Sallywags Childs Play) in Hartlepool. Paul has three children: Natalie (20), Lauren (18) and Ross (15). He is a keen follower of all sports and an avid Newcastle United and Hartlepool United supporter.