



COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX (Trading as Community First)

Directors' Biographies

John Evans



John is an experienced non-executive chairman, director and board advisor, with a focus on strategy, performance, effectiveness, governance, and Merger Acquisition integration.

Previously a senior executive and consultant with major global businesses in the pharmaceutical, health services, technology, software, security, media and consumer product sectors. His current business interests include workplace wellbeing, international culture & diversity, learning and a telemedicine partnership providing innovative health solutions in a wide range of applications and settings.

He was a Trustee and Chair with Hart Voluntary Action for 10 years and Chair of the Well Being Centre in Frimley. Additionally John served as a stakeholder Governor at Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Denis Gibson



Denis Gibson BA, MIPD

After a brief spell as a teacher, Denis joined the NHS as a graduate management trainee, working initially in Birmingham and training at Manchester Business School. His early NHS career was spent in the West Midlands where he developed an interest in human resources management.

He was appointed HR Director at Board-level in three different hospital and community organisations in Devon and Hampshire during the 1980s and 1990s. His last hospital role was at Southampton University Hospitals Trust as its HR Director between 1992 and 2001.

During the last 6 years of his NHS career Denis was Workforce Director for the NHS in Hampshire and

the Isle of Wight accountable for the strategic planning of the healthcare workforce (30,000 people) and he had responsibility for education budgets of more than £100M.

He left the NHS in 2007 to set up Gibson HR Consulting Ltd. He works as an independent consultant and interim manager with NHS employers across the south of England.

His experience includes senior management at Board level in NHS employing authorities and specialist management in human resources, education and training.

Denis' other interests include travel and music. He sings with the Winchester Community Choir that raises money for Hampshire charities and is learning classical guitar again after a long break...

Steve Irving



Steve Irving, B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD.

Steve's career:

1977-1985: bench scientist in USA and UK industry.

1985-1992: Biology Manager Wellcome Environmental Health

1992-2000: Directeur de Recherche /Insect Control Development Manager, DuPont France

2000-2002: Biology Manager, DuPont USA

2002-2015: Divisional Director, Cefas, Weymouth, UK.

His experience includes the following: people management, business development, Health and Safety, Science, organisational management and strategy.

Steve's other interests involve being a Fundraiser for Fareham and Gosport Multiple Sclerosis branch and Governor, Chair of Pay Committee, at Crofton School.

Jennie Owens



I did my degree in Spanish and French, but then decided to train in Social Work - first of all in Leeds and then at the London School of Economics.

My first job was in Hertfordshire as a member of a small team working across the County on the prevention of homelessness and the rehabilitation of homeless families. Our small department was subsequently absorbed into the Children's' dept, and I worked in Watford, mainly on a huge overspill LCC Housing estate. I then moved to South Wales to manage the Children's services in the Bridgend area, and was later to Port Talbot. After 10 years in S Wales I moved to Havant, where I was Area Manager for Social Services for 13 years, and came to know Leigh Park, Warrren Park, and Wecock

Farm and their problems quite well!

I left that post when the department was reorganised, and joined the Shaw Trust, a voluntary organisation, placing people with disabilities in work and supporting them in their employment.

Since retiring I have maintained my interests in both housing and people with special needs, as I am a trustee of both Havant Housing Association, which provides supported housing for a wide range of people with special needs, and of MIND in Havant and East Hants.

Margaret Woodhead



Margaret Woodhead BA Hons, DMS

Margaret's career has involved Arts organisation management, general, financial and strategic planning, fundraising and consultancy.

Her other interests include Healthwatch and Winchester Rotary.