

## VSSN Steering Group elections 2016

This year there are **three** vacancies for the Steering Group.

The following VSSN members have put themselves forward for election.

<p><b>Louis Carserides</b></p>	<p>I am a tech-savvy postgraduate who recently completed an MSc in Social Policy (Research) at the London School of Economics. I am extremely passionate about the charity sector and throughout my degree I directed my emerging knowledge of policy and research methods, qualitative and quantitative, towards this space. For example, taking a module on the third sector equipped me with a theoretical understanding of the relationship between government and charities whilst my dissertation explored the impact of current policy on grassroots organisations.</p> <p>Outside of schooling, I presented independent research at the University of Liverpool which explored how a grassroots organisation was able to sustain an effective and prolonged campaign against a £70 million regeneration project proposed by the local council. I have also co-written a working paper which was presented at the VSSN/NCVO annual conference in 2013.</p> <p>I have also enjoyed working in the private sector as a Cyber Intelligence Consultant and, most recently, for an NGO which operates in Afghanistan and the UK seeking to integrate Afghan and Central Asian refugees into British society as well as preventing extremism and radicalisation. My key role is to liaise with British and Afghan government officials, creating engaging campaigns and contributing towards government policies and influencing key decision-makers.</p> <p>My ability to utilize information systems as well as my knowledge of the cyber landscape resulted in a call to interview by the British Academy to facilitate with a research project centering on machine learning. I believe technology, now more than ever, is a critical tool for engaging with new and existing audiences and attracting young people and future leaders. As a member of the steering group, I will harness my technological expertise and knowledge of the voluntary landscape in order to foster a more engaged and involved membership base, increase member-subscriptions and, ultimately, help to build a more robust and sustainable VSSN.</p>
<p><b>Carolyn Cordery</b></p>	<p>From January 2017, Dr Carolyn Cordery will be a Professor in Accounting at Aston Business School, having moved from Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. She has been a member of VSSN since 2011 and published in and reviewed for Voluntary Sector Review. Her research focuses on voluntary sector organisations' accounting and accountability, including charities and</p>

	<p>sports clubs. She is interested in how these organisations are resourced (by donors/philanthropists, grants, contracts, volunteers, etc.) and the resource constraints that cause many of these organisations to be financially vulnerable. As a member of the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board, she has also been interested in improving the regulation of, and accounting in, these organisations. Carolyn has researched these issues in New Zealand and with colleagues in the UK and internationally, having received a UK grant in 2013/4 to assess the appetite and requirements for an international not-for-profit financial reporting standard. She is Joint Editor of Third Sector Review (the Journal of Australia and New Zealand Third Sector Research), on the editorial board of Accounting History, and the Lotteries Community Sector Research Committee. She is keen to contribute to UK research and the work of VSSN in supporting that.</p>
<p><b>Jane Cullingworth</b></p>	<p>I am interested in becoming involved in the VSSN community; volunteering for the Steering Group affords the perfect opportunity. I have worked in the third sector all my life and recently began a PhD exploring the third sector relationship with the state. I am keen to make personal and professional connections in my new community. I want to contribute to the development of the field, to help shape VSSN and to promote VSSN widely across the sector (especially in Scotland). I am particularly interested in strengthening VSSN's offer to PGR students. I believe that I have the right skills, attributes and experience to make a positive contribution.</p> <p><b>Skills</b> I have strong skills in communication (written and oral), organisational development (including strategic planning and HR management), governance and financial management.</p> <p><b>Attributes</b> I am a positive thinker, solution focused and energetic. I am passionate about the third sector and am keen to make a contribution.</p> <p><b>Experience</b> I have worked and volunteered in the third sector for 30 years, 25 years of which were in Toronto, Canada. I have over six years experience as a trustee in two women's organisations, one in Canada (Opportunity for Advancement) and one in Scotland (Stirling Women's Aid). I served as the board chair in both organisations, for a total of five out of the six years. I have worked for community-based organisations in a variety of roles and with a diversity of communities. I have over 15 years experience in management, eight of which were in chief executive roles.</p>
<p><b>Peter Maple</b></p>	<p>As a successful charity fundraising practitioner for 25 years and academic for 9 years I have a particular interest in the success of the VSSN.</p> <p>I have spent the last three years as an active member of the steering group</p>

	<p>helping to organise seminars and conferences, including the chairing of some sessions. More recently I have acted as the group's representative on the Editorial Board participating through meetings, attending conferences and reviewing papers.</p> <p>My research area is Philanthropy and I teach charity management, leadership &amp; governance, social marketing and fundraising at a masters level so have a continuing interest furthering voluntary sector research and good practice.</p> <p>If re-elected I plan to assist the group to expand and continue publishing high quality research and practice papers.</p>
<p><b>Linda Milbourne</b></p>	<p>I have some 30 years experience of public and voluntary sector organisations, including as a manager, teacher, trainer, voluntary sector trustee and active campaigner. I have been a member of the Voluntary Sector Studies Network for over 10 years and a member of the Steering Group for the last 3 years. My roles on the Steering group have included updating information on course lists for the VSSN website, planning and organisation of the annual conference and currently, planning day conferences. I am keen to maintain my contribution to the Steering Group and believe my experience of voluntary and committee work in a range of organisations will continue to be valuable.</p> <p>I have worked as an academic and researcher in higher education since 1998, focusing on social policy initiatives and hard-to-reach groups, and leading postgraduate programmes and research in voluntary, community and youth studies at Birkbeck, University of London. I have recently retired from my post at Birkbeck but continue to undertake research. I am also a research associate of the Third Sector Research Centre, Birmingham. My recent research has focused on civil society organisations, changing service relationships in welfare and the suppression of dissent, and will shortly lead to the publication of a co-edited book on 'Civil Society Organisations in Turbulent Times'. I have a number of other publications.</p> <p>For more details and publication links:</p> <p><a href="http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/tsrc/about/fellowships.aspx#milbourne">http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/tsrc/about/fellowships.aspx#milbourne</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.booksetc.co.uk/books/view/voluntary-sector-in-transition-9781847427236">http://www.booksetc.co.uk/books/view/voluntary-sector-in-transition-9781847427236</a></p>
<p><b>Mike Woolvin</b></p>	<p>I would be delighted to be elected for a second term to the VSSN steering group. In my first term I have contributed – along with other steering group members – to the organisation of the previous three annual research conferences in partnership with NCVO and IVR. I would be very keen to build on this experience, continuing to contribute to VSSN's aims.</p> <p>In addition to my prior experience serving on the steering group, I would continue to bring both academic and practice-oriented perspectives to the</p>

role. As a researcher I have been involved with work in this field for almost 10 years focusing particularly on the experiences of volunteers and geographical variations in volunteering and the voluntary sector, engaging routinely with policy and practice stakeholders. From a practice perspective, I have previously been elected to committee positions – including chair – for two student environmental conservation organisations giving me experience of working with a team of committee members to support and develop voluntary groups. I am experienced in volunteer management, and have volunteered in the environmental sector for the last 13 years. I therefore understand the opportunities for VSSN and its members from a range of perspectives.

Throughout my involvement with the sector, as an early career researcher and more recently, I have benefitted greatly from the support, networking and events offered by VSSN. I would very much like to continue to support its ongoing activities and development as a steering group member, and hope to be an asset to the group.