

## Personal statement for the 2020 AGM

I would like to be re-elected to the board of the NCH as Development Director because I want to continue to contribute to the organisation's ongoing development and growth. I'm proud to be a member of the NCH and a representative of the organisation and want to continue with the work I have started. As a member of the board I have been involved in a number of official duties including interviewing new board members, reviewing policies and other director duties. I've also been very involved in the development of the new website especially in regard to copywriting.

In my role as development director I am responsible for supporting peer groups and CPD training. In 2019 I introduced the digital NCH CPD newsletter which has information on peer group meetings and CPD events and this links through to the NCH website CPD page. In my NCH role I regularly visit peer group meetings across the UK. Over the last 3 years I have talked with many co-ordinators and have had discussions with a number of members considering launching a group in their area and provided guidance on how to launch a group. I have physically visited groups in the south of England, the midlands and the north and attend every London group meeting where I am accessible to members before, during and after the meeting.

Since the Coronavirus pandemic I have been supporting peer groups in the conversion to online meetings and have encouraged members and co-ordinators to visit other groups outside their geographical location to share ideas and good practice. Since March this year I have visited the Central England group, the West Yorkshire group and the London online groups and plan to continue visiting other online groups. I am hopeful that some online groups will continue post-pandemic as this is an effective way to support members who live in rural communities, have caring responsibilities or who are self-isolating.

I'm proud of the work that I've done in my department over the last five years. Since being elected in 2015 the NCH has been through many changes and is going from strength to strength. It now has a team of enthusiastic and committed members on the board and executive. I am keen to continue working with this team to improve services to members and to maintain the high standards for which the organisation is known.

Lorraine McReight