

Executive Profile

Lisa Wisher

Alliance for Learning Mental Health Lead

Lisa has 25 year's experience in social work, training and child trauma issues.

She qualified as a social worker in 1990 and began her career working in residential settings with Looked After Young People and then in Acute and Rehabilitation Mental Health Services. Following this she moved into the Voluntary Sector, managing a range of community based projects. She was then appointed as Director of Manchester Brook in 1995, a national young person's sexual health charity. Her role was to open and establish the city centre service. Within three years it became one of the busiest young people's services outside of London, with over 10,000 young people registered as clients.

In 1999 Lisa was appointed as Associate Director of Health Improvement for Central Manchester Primary Care Trust. She was strategic lead for several high profile Public Health initiatives. This included developing the NHS's pioneering alternative governance and decision making framework for the organisation. The framework allowed local community representatives, Voluntary Sector groups and Local Elected Councillors to be part of the formal commissioning process. As Associate Director she was also responsible for the development and launch of the country's first free Pharmacy Emergency Contraception Service. This won the 1999 Pharmaceutical Care award and generated widespread national and international press and television coverage.

After adopting her two children in 2002, Lisa's career direction took a different turn. Quickly realising that due to her children's early life experience they required very different type of parenting she set about learning as much as possible about childhood trauma. After completing her CIPD Training Qualification and The Women's Aid Practitioner Qualification, she went back to her Social Work roots and joined a large Hospital Trust Safeguarding Team, as a Specialist Domestic Abuse Trainer. Responsible for the development of a range of Learning and Development opportunities for over 11,000 staff.

During this time she was also appointed as Vice Chair of an Adoption Panel. She also completed a range of Developmental Trauma courses, including Family Futures "Neuro-Physiological Psychotherapy Framework for working with Traumatized Children". She was appointed as a trainer for Adoption UK developing and delivering a range of courses, but primarily domestic abuse and the impact on children, and developmental trauma and the school environment. She currently works as a Parent Consultant on a Department of Education adoption research project, has developed her own training business delivering courses to schools and is a Psychotherapist in Advanced Transactional Analysis Training. Her psychotherapy work is with adults with a range of mental health and well-being issues. Including childhood trauma, relationship issues, anxiety and depression. Increasingly she is also working with education staff who are dealing with the stress, pressure and vicarious trauma of working closely with the complex issues many of our children and young people are presenting with. In the last five years Lisa has worked closely with schools improving pastoral support, mental health understanding and behaviour of the most vulnerable. Lisa is one of the most experienced in her field.

