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Personal Profile:

My career background has provided me with the opportunity to navigate all sectors, giving me a comprehensive understanding. My roles in education as a school governor, health as CEO of The Children’s Foundation at the RVI and close working relationship with both local authorities in County Durham & Darlington have enabled me to appreciate challenges and politics. One of my main strengths is identifying partnership opportunities and developing relationships – which are key to a successful business.

Although I will continue to work with the voluntary sector as a trustee and school governor, I am keen to use my skills and connections to add value to other significant key players in the North East to enhance the region and the economy and benefit local communities which are what I care about.

Working with a small portfolio of clients to develop their future growth, I aim to provide independent advice through a ‘hands on’ approach. I am a firm believer in transparency, hard work, fairness and valuing others.

Key Skills & Attributes

Not-for-profit strategic leadership:

- Change management
- Team building, people development & training
- Profile building
- Presentational skills and local influencer
- Committee management & facilitation

Income Generation:

- Business/product strategy and planning
- Reporting, performance management and target setting
- Communications and event management
- Researching and prospect approaches

Integrity & Professionalism:

- Create and develop partnerships across all sectors
- Networking and customer relations
- Identifying and developing key stakeholders
- Creating ideas and delivering outcomes/outputs

Project Management:

- Effective business planning, decision-making and financial management
- Governance and industry standards expertise
- Process & policy development

Community Engagement:

- Understanding of local and regional needs
- Well connected and respected
- Politically savvy, strong negotiation skills
- Emotional intelligence and empathy

Achievements

- Delivered new concepts, events and rebrands
- Developed better child health initiatives
- Transcription and delivery of academic research messages
- High personal and organisational profiles
- Well regarded throughout community
- Member of strategic North East boards
- Increased turnover to average £5 million per annum
- Increased grant-making from £14 million to £36 million
- Grew donor funds to 215 from 65
- Successful IIP, ISO, ENTRUST and Community Foundation
- Accreditations and compliance

Awards & Appointments

- Business in the Community Marks & Spencer Sieff Award 2012 – bringing businesses together to benefit the community
- 2012-2017 – Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham
- Alternative Business Award 2017 - Business person of the year
- Queen’s Birthday Honours 2017 - Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for Services to the Voluntary Sector

Career History:

Jan 1999-Aug 2003	Development Director	Community Foundation Newcastle
Sept 2003-Nov 2008	Chief Executive	The Children’s Foundation
Dec 2008-Dec 2017	Chief Executive	County Durham Community Foundation