

Dinah Morley

I grew up in Surrey, Bedfordshire and Middlesex and went to university in London. I have worked in voluntary organisations, as a hospital social worker, as a teacher in both primary and secondary schools and as a manager in a local authority department. In a Hackney primary school I was responsible for home/school liaison and also ran the Nurture class. I moved from there to run a community support team for people returning to the community from the North East London long stay psychiatric hospitals. Following that I became a principal officer and then assistant director of social services in an inner London local authority, finally moving to the national charity, YoungMinds, where I established the charity's consultancy and training service. I became the assistant director at YoungMinds and, prior to my retirement, undertook the role of director for a year whilst a permanent replacement for the recently retired director was sought.

Since retiring I have completed a PhD into the emotional well being of mixed race children and young people, an interest stemming from my personal experience and my teaching days. In October 2013 I completed 6 years as a Governor of the East London Foundation Trust, a trust providing mental health and community services to North East London and beyond.

I am currently an honorary senior lecturer at City University and an honorary researcher in the unit for Social and Community Psychiatry attached to the East London Foundation Trust, City University and Queen Mary's University London. I am also a fellow of the Dartington Social Policy Unit.

I am married with four children, one of whom is mixed race, and have eight grandchildren for whom I baby sit from time to time, helping out more intensively in school and nursery holiday periods. I also have a mixed race step son and a foster son of African-Caribbean ethnicity.

I got to know People in Harmony over the period of my research for the PhD and members were very helpful and supportive. I was keen to offer support to the organisation once that was finished, hence becoming a trustee. I retain a keen interest in mental health, in particular the mental health of children and young people.