

New Team for Mind Taunton & West Somerset Alan & Allan take over!

Mind have appointed a new Director and elected a new Chairman.

Chairman Alan Cottrell was born in Devon and brought up mainly in Hampshire before going to the University of Kent to study Mathematics. Following University Alan trained as an Actuary in central London before deciding to become a Teacher. During his time in Education he chose to work predominantly in areas of deprivation in need of regeneration, and with diverse communities. He has held two Headships, in London and Hampshire; both were very large comprehensive schools with wide ranging community provision attached to them for which he was responsible. These complex organisations presented a degree of challenge and reward. Following Cancer Alan took early retirement from Education and relocated to Somerset, establishing a family business with his wife and son. Alan has maintained a strong interest in the locality and now holds a portfolio of Board roles in the region, which builds upon a career of active community engagement.

Director Allan Petchey joins Mind from RSM Tenon, one of the UK's leading accountancy firms where he headed Contract Audit nationally with a specific responsibility for Project Management in the public and private sectors. Prior to his risk management role Allan was the Centre Director for the relationship counselling charity Relate North Devon and is pleased to be returning to the charitable sector after a break of almost 10 years.

Allan Petchey said on his appointment: "These are challenging times in the Charitable Sector with the Coalition Government looking towards charities to take more responsibility for service provision. During periods of economic unease Mind really does come into its own with a focus on working with people battling depression, anxiety or stress. Mind are a strong voice for people in our community who are less able to speak up for themselves. Against this backdrop, the proposed changes giving GP's a greater role in commissioning Mental Health needs to be carefully watched to ensure that Psychological therapies – such as counselling and psychotherapy – are not a casualty of savings cuts that would reduce services to vulnerable people and their families."

More information and comment can be gained by ringing the Taunton Office on: 01823 334906