

Homeless Network Scotland

we are all in



Nominations for **Board of Directors**
2020-21

Mike Burns | Aberdeen Cyrenians

Mike Burns is the CEO of Aberdeen Cyrenians, the Chair of the Aberdeen/Shire Housing First consortium and Co Chair of the Granite Care Consortium.

Mike was the CEO of CAIR Scotland for 17 years prior to that Mike had been the Head of Services for DDAP. Mike built up CAIR Scotland from a local charity based in Dundee to an organisation with offices and services in Dundee, Edinburgh, Perth, Angus and Aberdeenshire.

Mike served as a non-executive director of the Hillcrest Group, one of Scotland's largest RSLs for over 9 years and chaired the their HMS board for 4 of those years.

Mike has spent over 27 years developing and delivering Health and Social Care services across Scotland for our most vulnerable adults and children, in residential care, homelessness, addictions, harm reduction, recovery, youth justice and children's intensive support.

Mike has spoken at many national and international conferences on Harm Reduction, Recovery and Eradicating Hep C. Mike was a member of the Eradicate Hep C board, a research programme into the eradication of Hepatitis C in the intravenous drug using community in the City of Dundee. This ground-breaking research between Dundee University, NHS Tayside and CAIR Scotland produced cure rates and health/social outcomes for those engaged in the programme not replicated at other world research sites.

Mike has served on the Angus, Dundee and Perth/Kinross ADPs, City of Dundee Child Protection Committee, Fostering Panel and Dundee Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group. He has also represented the third sector as an executive lead in various L/As over many years, contributing to several service audits, rapid improvement programmes, redesigns and inspection implementation groups.

Mike also chaired the 3rd sector representative body in Dundee, Dundee Voluntary Action over three periods for 9 years. He also chaired the City of Dundee TSI for two of its first four years. Mike is as IOD and IOF member.

Community asset transfer and social enterprise is an area that Mike has taken forward as a personal focus on building community sustainability and resilience, Mike has successfully lead on three major community asset transfer programmes over the past 20 years.

Mike is currently a member of the Social Bite/National Programme Board for Housing First, with a task to roll out a national "Housing First" programme. He is also a member of the IOD & RSA.

I would like to see HNS truly become a national organisation with representation across Scotland at board level, while looking to build a Housing First programme across Scotland which meets the values and principles set out within the original Housing First vision.

Jackie Erdman | Individual Member

I have worked in Glasgow for 40 years in the area of community development and health.

Originally, I trained as a sculptor at Glasgow School of Art graduating in 1981. Over my time at Art School I became involved in voluntary work with vulnerable young people and so became increasingly interested in community work. After working at Shakespeare Street Youth Club in Maryhill I studied community development at Jordanhill College. I then worked in social work and voluntary sector organisations for 14 years as a Community Development Worker in Maryhill and Ruchazie. I worked on benefit campaigns, housing campaigns and with Maryhill Joint Women's Action Group who developed the first purpose-built women's centre in Scotland.

In 1997 I took up post in the NHS Mental Health Directorate in the Centre for Women's Health building on my long-standing commitment to women's issues. In 1999 I moved to the Health Improvement Directorate to lead the Health at Work team, where I developed a programme of workplace health which addressed health inequalities, national health improvement targets and local needs. I then worked in Easterhouse and the East End Social Inclusion Partnership, representing the NHS, where I supported innovative projects to improve the local infrastructure and housing, tackle poverty and unemployment and improve health.

More recently I have been part of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board's Equality and Human Rights Team, where I've worked for the last 14 years, latterly as the Head of Equality and Human Rights. The team has a wide-ranging remit covering equalities issues, human rights, socio-economic inequalities and reducing health inequalities. Over that time, I completed a masters degree in Urban Studies and Public Policy at the University of Glasgow.

I recently retired from the NHS and I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Scottish Homeless Network Board, having had a long association with homelessness issues and housing sustainability. I hope I could contribute my knowledge and expertise on health inequalities and human rights to influence the national homelessness agenda.

Peter Kelly | The Poverty Alliance

I have been active in campaigns for social justice for more than 25 years, both as a worker and activist. I joined the Poverty Alliance in 2002 and have been Director since 2004. I am responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the organisation, as well as leading on the policy and campaigning goals of the network. So I bring a knowledge of the policy and political context that HNS operates in, and I'm committed to the same outcomes as the Network and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to achieving them. I also have a strong interest and knowledge in issues around labour market inequality, including in-work poverty and low pay, social security and civic and community activism.

In relation to the governance aspect of board membership, I have represented the Poverty Alliance on a number of boards including the Scottish Drugs Forum, the Scottish International Development Alliance, Energy Action Scotland, the Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector, the End Child Poverty and others. He was Vice President of the European Anti-Poverty Network from 2012-2018. I am also Company Secretary for the Poverty Alliance.

I have always respected and admired the work of GHN and this has only grown since the launch of Homeless Network Scotland. There has been a great deal of progress in a short space of time, both in terms of influencing policy and practice, as well as in the approach that the Network has taken - placing the experiences and voices at the heart of making change. I believe that I could make a contribution to building on the progress that has been made so far, bringing in my knowledge of campaigning and policy change.

Ashleigh Simpson | Crisis

I am applying to be on the Board of Homeless Network Scotland because I am personally and professionally committed to preventing and ending homelessness in Scotland. Over the past year I have developed my understanding of the organisation's work and have been impressed by their collaborative nature and vision. As such, I am excited by the opportunity to be more involved in their work.

I hope that the skills and knowledge I would bring would be an asset to the organisation. I am currently the Head of Policy and Communications at Crisis in Scotland. Over the past year, my work has included the publication and promotion of Crisis' manifesto for the Westminster elections, the work of the Prevention Review Group, Everyone Home, HARSAG and the drafting of the Scottish Government's revised action plan to end homelessness. I am professionally and personally committed to the cause and strongly believe in the sector working in collaboration to see this goal achieved.

I have a strong background in public affairs and campaigning. My previous roles have included Policy and Campaigns Manager at Breast Cancer Now in Scotland and I have led campaigns activity in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). Through these roles, I successfully led influencing work which delivered access to new treatments for people affected by breast cancer, significant additional investment in primary care and an expansion of the GP workforce across the UK.

I previously served on the Board of Directors with Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid (Northern Ireland) between 2012 and 2015. During this time, I contributed effectively to the Employment Sub-Group and Staffing Sub-Group. I was also an elected committee member of the Northern Ireland Government Affairs Group between 2013-2017.

James Strang | Individual Member

I have been a housing professional for over 40 years holding a series of roles and functions throughout that time culminating in the last 14 years as CEO of the award winning Parkhead Housing Association in the East End of Glasgow.

I have had considerable experience as a Board member of a number of housing, educational and local community based charities and I am full aware of the role of a board member and trustee.

I was elected by the membership of the Chartered Institute of housing, the professional body for housing, as their President and led a national campaign of raising awareness of and the role housing can play in tackling all forms of domestic violence. A campaign that was successful in all parts of the UK. I was the chair of the Scottish HAS response group for the Syrian Refugee crisis and was active against SERCO when it started its actions in Glasgow.

I have therefore a strong track record of housing campaigning as well as strong track record within housing and business management.

I also have a determination to be part of the campaign to eradicate homelessness to ensure that housing for all is a basic human right and having the opportunity to continue that journey with you will enable me to continue to play my part in bringing about change.

I am no stranger to the sector nor to national and local government.