

William Butler Biography



William is a governor of Milton Keynes University Foundation Trust (MKUH) and a member of their Charitable Funds Committee, which provides strategic oversight to the hospital's charitable activity. Being a local trust governor has given William opportunities to collectively share his lived experience as a cancer patient to make a difference and influence trust policy and operations.

As a former senior voluntary sector employee and an active charity trustee, William has had significant experience of sharing the patient voice in other healthcare forums. He has led transformational change projects, developed strategic planning processes and performance monitoring systems, as well as developing some understanding of how barriers can be overcome to create shared visions linking strategic objectives to practical performance measures.

As a former CEO of a physical disability service user governed national voluntary organisation as well as COO of a substance misuse charity, William has had regular engagement with government departments and ministers, whether challenging decisions or advising. For instance, as inaugural Chair of the Substance Misuse Skills Consortium, he worked with the National Treatment Agency, to establish the organisation and executive committee, enabling member organisations (including Health Trusts, Voluntary Sector providers and Royal Colleges) to work together on maximising the ability of the workforce, to support and enable substance misuse recovery. This also provided a platform for offering a collective user-centred sector voice and communication to ministers/government on the achievement of the policy ambitions of the then Drug Strategy.

William has worked hard to deliver real user involvement in charity governance, meaning a recognition that goes beyond tokenism, requiring organisational commitment and investment in structured support mechanisms. He believes that monitoring trustee effectiveness and supervising/guiding senior management are critically dependent on clear feedback and the backbone of structured outcome-focused strategic plans. His strategic 'antennae' have also been sharpened through the insight and skills gained by assisting organisations to understand their social impact and as importantly, to consider what strategic actions they need to consider as a result of understanding the social value they create.

William is also a trustee of two local educational charities, a small national homelessness organisation and Chair of trustees at Directory of Social Change - a national charity which supports an independent voluntary sector through campaigning, training, funding information and publications.

