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### *Work History:*

- **March 2013 to current:** Strategic Policy Advisor to Breakthrough UK Ltd (P/T following successful recovery from heart attack).
- **July 1998 to January 2013:** Chief Executive, Breakthrough UK Ltd: significant delivery of a new social enterprise business model, taken to over £1m annual income with 40 staff, 70% being disabled people. Establishing a strong national reputation for the organisation, being cited as best practice in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit (PMSU: 2005) 'Life Chances' report. Policy input on disability to regional and national Government: including the regional development agency, regional assembly, personal membership on two Ministerial Advisory Committees: DWP Disability Employment Advisory Committee and (then) DTI Small Business Council, which I represented on the initial Task Force advising the Government on the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights. I also advised the PMSU on several aspects of their 'Life Chances' report.
- **December 1995 to July 1998:** Strategy Manager, Manchester City Council; sole responsibility for delivering a major cultural change project to externalise council services and provide them through a new company, run by disabled people.
- **December 1992 to December 1995:** Health For All Organiser, Manchester City Council, enabling joint work at a strategic level with health, local authority and third sectors to successfully revitalise the project, deliver initiatives and promote healthier public policies across a major city.
- **August 1989 to December 1992:** Team Leader, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP), responsible for staff and day to day organisational management, developing GMCDP into a strategic body with a strong positive national reputation.
- **December 1986 to Aug 1989:** Development Worker, (GMCDP) – encouraging membership involvement and developing projects and activities.
- **May 1978 to December 1986:** Career break, 2 children.
- **April 1977 to May 1978:** Clerical Officer, Middlesbrough Job Centre
- **August 1975 to April 1977:** Pattern Cutter, Dumarsel Dresses, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

### *Public activities:*

Disability Employment Advisory Committee (DEAC), Ministerial Advisory Committee at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP): member for 5 years till 2010.

Small Business Council (SBC); Ministerial Advisory Committee at the Department for Trade and Industry, as was (DTI): member for 4 years and SBC 'Disability Champion' North West Equality and Diversity Group, 'sponsored' by the NW Regional Assembly: member for 2 years, having now passed this role to one of my staff members.

The Manchester Board, now the Leaders' Forum 'shapes and drives the work done by its partners': member since December 2007.

### *Training:*

During my working life I have undertaken many training courses including Managing a Team, Supervision Skills, Managing Attendance, Time and Workload Management, Plain English, British Sign Language, Finance for non-Finance Managers, Managing Multiple Projects, and Achieving Seismic Change. I have attended, and indeed contributed to, many conferences and seminars on disability and diversity matters.

***Education:***

1969/70 6 O levels including Mathematics and English  
1971 3 A levels: (French, Art, British Constitution)  
1975 Associateship of the Clothing Institute, Hollings College, Manchester.  
(degree status)  
1998 MA in Disability Studies, Leeds University (achieved while working full time).  
2004 NVQ5; Strategic Management: benchmarked in top NW 9%.

***Freelance work:***

**Delivering Change** –I have over 20 years experience as a consultant, facilitator or trainer on disability / diversity issues and organisational, management, recruitment and planning issues. Clients have included local authority departments, private sector employers, large and small voluntary organisations, disabled people and their organisations, and higher education institutions.

**Consultancy** - I have worked jointly with colleagues, and alone, conducting feasibility studies which have led directly to the establishment of Leicester Coalition of Disabled People and the Coalition of Disabled People, Birmingham. I worked with Glasgow Centre for Integrated Living to facilitate consultative meetings on a local transport strategy. I delivered a report for 'citygrowthliverpool' on 'Enterprise Support & Skills and Work Readiness: Disabled People' and more recently I reported to the Department of Health on the 'Business Development Needs of User Led Organisations'.

***Other work-related skills:***

I have excellent communication skills and am practiced at giving radio and TV interviews – both live and recorded. I have had articles, book reviews and chapters printed in national publications. I am used to giving talks and presentations on disability related matters and have spoken at national conferences, large and small. I am an editing referee for the respected UK academic journal "Disability & Society".

***Interests outside work:***

I have been involved with local disabled peoples' organisations for 30 years. I contributed to Unison activities at a local and a national level. Swimming has always been a keen interest of mine, having represented England in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand (a long time ago!) and having achieved my Open Water scuba diving certificate several years ago. Music, reading and sewing are my "relaxation" pastimes: for example in June 2004 I enjoyed completing a City & Guilds course in creative embroidery and in 2011 I completed an Open University Creative Writing module. As a 'wordy' person I enjoy a challenging game of Scrabble!