

INSIDE OUTSIDE FAMILY MATTERS
13th November 2007

BIOGRAPHIES - SPEAKERS

The Rt. Hon. Hilary Armstrong MP

Labour Member of Parliament for North West Durham.

Born in Sunderland on the 30th November 1945, Hilary Jane Armstrong is the daughter of the late Ernest Armstrong MP, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and a government whip in Harold Wilson's government. Ernie was also her predecessor as MP for North West Durham.

Hilary lives in Crook, County Durham and is married to Professor Paul Corrigan.

Educated at Monkwearmouth Comprehensive School in Sunderland, she went onto study at West Ham College of Technology and the University of Birmingham.

Before entering parliament Hilary spent time overseas as a VSO volunteer, teaching at a Girls School in Kenya. Returning to Britain, Hilary turned to Social and Community work in Southwick, Sunderland and in the West End of Newcastle upon Tyne. Building on these experiences she became a lecturer in Youth and Community Work at Sunderland Polytechnic. (Now Sunderland University)

It was this background that led Hilary into politics. An active campaigner in the North East of England, Hilary was elected on to the Regional Boards of the Labour Party and her union MSF (Amicus). In 1985, she was elected as a Councillor for Crook North Division on Durham County Council and became Parliamentary Researcher for her father Ernest Armstrong MP.

In 1985, Hilary was selected by the local Labour Party in North West Durham to be their parliamentary candidate and she was first elected to parliament in General Election of 1987.

As a Member of Parliament Hilary has served as an opposition frontbench spokesperson on Education (1988–1992).

In 1992 she was made Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the opposition leader, the late John Smith MP. During her time as PPS to John Smith, Hilary played a crucial vote in securing reform within the Labour Party, helping broker a deal which saw the introduction of "One Member One Vote" (OMOV) in Labour Party elections.

Following the death of John Smith MP and election of Tony Blair as Labour Leader, she was appointed the Treasury Affairs Team in 1994. In 1995 she was made Opposition spokesperson on the Environment and London, with responsibility for Local Government.

After Labour's 1997 general election victory, Prime Minister Tony Blair appointed her as

Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions with responsibility for Local Government and Housing.

In this role Hilary was at the forefront of the government's drive to modernise Local Government and promote equality by starting the move to repeal Section 28 from the statute books. She also had special responsibility for Social Exclusion and oversaw the creation of the government's Social Exclusion Unit.

In 1999 Hilary was made a member of the Privy Council.

Following the 2001 General Election Hilary was promoted to the Cabinet and given the cabinet position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Government Chief Whip. Only the second woman to hold the position. She was re-appointed as Government Chief Whip following the 2005 General Election. By the time she left the post she had become one of the longest serving Labour Chief Whips.

In May 2006, the then Prime Minister Tony Blair, appointed Hilary to the post of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Social Exclusion. In the Prime Minister's appointment letter she was asked to co-ordinate a new cross-government effort to breakdown the barriers for those excluded from society and to expand the ways in which government works with the voluntary sector.

Hilary Armstrong published *"Reaching Out - an Action Plan to combat Social Exclusion"* in September 2006.

In June 2007, Hilary announced her decision to step down from the Government and return to the backbenches after 18 years as a Party spokesperson and Government Minister.

In July 2007, Hilary was asked by the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown to Chair the backbench committee of Labour MP's formulating ideas on Children's policy for the next manifesto.

Outside politics, Hilary enjoys reading, the theatre and supporting Sunderland AFC.

Gerry Marshall
Chief Officer
Thames Valley Probation

Gerry was appointed as a Probation Officer in 1978, spending 5½ years in Wallington and was a full-time groupworker for two years. In 1985 Gerry was appointed as Senior Probation Officer in Lambeth in a generic field team which covered the central Brixton and Stockwell patches, but with lead roles on community involvement and victim support. Next Gerry took up post as Warden of St. Edmund's Voluntary Approved Probation and Bail Hostel.

Gerry's appointment at the start of 1993 as Assistant Chief Probation Officer for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets coincided with the election of a BNP councillor, and the violent assault on Quddas Ali. He spoke about the local context of race relations and racial incidents at the trial of the 'Mile End Six'. During his time as an Assistant Chief Gerry was lead officer for groupwork programmes across Inner London. He became lead officer for Race Relations in Inner London and was involved with John Grieve in developing the Association of Chief Police Officers' 'Hate Crime' Manual.

Gerry moved to Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Probation Service in May 1999, becoming Chief Officer of Thames Valley Probation Area in April 2001.

Since becoming Chief in Thames Valley he has been a member of the Diversity Strategy Board and the Human Resources Strategy Board and has championed the development of Restorative Justice interventions as sentencing disposals.

Sue Raikes OBE
Chief Executive
Thames Valley Partnership

Sue Raikes is Chief Executive of the Thames Valley Partnership, a charity which brings people and organisations together to work for safer communities. The Thames Valley Partnership works with statutory and voluntary organisations and the business sector across the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire – an area which includes 18 local authorities and 16 community safety strategic partnerships.

Sue has a background in social policy research and in the probation service. She joined the Thames Valley Partnership on secondment from Oxfordshire Probation Service in 1993 and two years later became its Chief Executive. Sue has contributed to the work of the Audit Commission, the Home Office, the LGA and the Youth Justice Board, bringing wide ranging experience of partnership work and of the interface between the criminal justice system, local government and the community and business sectors. Sue has particular expertise in domestic violence, early intervention and restorative justice and has published in the BJ CJ on community safety and community justice.

Sue was awarded an OBE in the 2006 New Year Honours for services to community safety.

Sue Raikes. 01844 202001 email sue@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk

Patsy Townsend
Director of Youth Programmes
Thames Valley Partnership

Patsy Townsend is currently director of youth programmes at Thames Valley Partnership having been seconded to the Partnership in 1998 and subsequently having taken up a substantive post in 2003. Her role within the Partnership is to manage the Never Too Early Programme but she also has a community safety role within Oxfordshire where she chairs a county community safety network and sits as a member of some Crime and Disorder Partnerships. Under the Never Too Early programme she manages the Family Matters initiative which aims to better integrate support to the families of prisoners and offenders across all agencies.

Her professional background is twenty years plus spent in the Probation Service specialising in work with young offenders and project development and management.

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Salina Bates
Information Manager
Social Care Institute for Excellence

Salina Bates has a Bsc. Hons in Experimental Psychology and a Msc. Applied Forensic Psychology. She has experience working in the field of criminal justice as a researcher for Sussex police force and as a research analyst at West Sussex Youth Offending Team (YOT). Her work included developing performance of the YOT, evaluation of interventions and European research into links between domestic violence and youth offending patterns.

Salina has been at SCIE for almost 4 years working as a team and project manager. Salina's main current roles are to manage SCIE's work programme support team, project manage the organisation's research briefing series, co project manage the children of prisoners project at SCIE and develop the internal information retrieval and scoping elements of the organisation's work.

Salina has published on domestic violence and youth offending, a SCIE publication on systematic mapping and parental mental health and two papers undergoing peer review on systematic mapping.

Sara Lewis
Practice Development Manager
Social Care Institute for Excellence

Sara is a practice development manager at the Social Care Institute for Excellence. She has worked there for 4 years, managing a range of projects about social care and working on the Children of Prisoners project for the past year.

Before then Sara worked for Revolving Doors Agency, providing support to people who had complex needs and found themselves in contact with the Criminal Justice System.

She also worked for NACRO as a policy development officer in the mental health unit, and she started her career as a probation officer, working in both Staffordshire and the Thames Valley.

BIOGRAPHIES – PANEL MEMBERS

Gerry Marshall)
Sue Raikes OBE) see previous section
Patsy Townsend)

Annetta Bennett

Sarah Salmon

Vivien Brandon