



## Karen Livingstone, Our new CEO

The observant among you will have noticed that Peter – our LMC Chief Executive for 15 years retired at Christmas. While he has his feet up the LMC office are getting to grips with a new Chief and we thought you'd like to know a bit more about her.

Karen Livingstone joined us from her role as the lead for an NHS England Innovation programme – [www.sbrihealthcare.co.uk](http://www.sbrihealthcare.co.uk). As leader of SBRI Healthcare Karen worked with NHS partners to understand their needs and then with entrepreneurs to create the new technology solutions to solve these problems. Prior to this she worked for the Strategic Health Authority as Director of Partnerships – where she helped NHS Partners to engage at a strategic level with Local Government partners. Experience in these roles meant she has worked with some of the same individuals who now work in our CCGs... yes some of the CCG staff are still there!

Before these roles Karen was a political communicator – or 'spin doctor' to the tabloid readers among you. She worked for the Secretary of State for Health (Patricia Hewitt) as a special adviser and was part of the Labour election team in 1992, 1997 and worked for Gordon Brown, Jack Straw and Tony Blair as a media adviser through these times. Experience as an elected Councillor in the London Borough of Merton has meant Karen knows how challenging it can be to an elected rep.

Karen also has wide experience of negotiating – she worked for 15 years as a trade union media and communications director for the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the Transport and General Workers union (now Unite) and the GMB union.

A trained journalist Karen's first jobs out of University was as a jobbing journalist and she ended up working as editor of the Anti-Apartheid movements newspaper. This meant that she was there at the time of Mandela's release and has a rich selection of memorabilia from that time at the AAM.

Like most busy people Karen has sought to grow her skills and wider experience and has completed health leadership programmes at Yale, Cambs Uni Business School and most recently qualifying as a Chartered Director on the Institute of Directors programme. Knowledge of business leadership has also come from her roles as a Non-Exec Director for the Regional Development Agency and the Business Link service. Currently Karen continues her Non-Exec experience as an NED on Suffolk University's Board.

Alongside her working life Karen has had two children – her boys, Carrick and Findlay are now 21 and 18 and Karen is enjoying a bit of time to herself with her partner – Pete.

Karen is really keen to get out of the office (we've told her it's because she can learn more from you – but really we like to have a bit of time to ourselves!) and she's particularly keen to learn more about the realities for GPs.

So please do invite her to come and visit you – if you think there are key meetings that she could join you for – let us know or get in touch with her or any of us at the office [lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk) / 01438 880010.