



IONA O'CARROLL

Community Development Specialist

PROFILE

Iona has over 15 years of experience working in the voluntary, local government, and private sector on a wide range of community related projects. Iona has an extensive background working in health improvement and community development and engagement roles as a social worker, domestic abuse coordinator and as a community health development officer in Oxfordshire. More recently she has been working on the development of Community Trusts and Stewardship strategies on large scale housing developments across the UK.

Iona's knowledge expands to conducting in-depth community needs analysis' and leading on community engagement and community insight gathering, analysing data from public health, GP's, and qualitative data from communities. Iona has a decade of experience of facilitating user groups and chairing stakeholder meetings in different communities to help people to identify the challenges they face, find sustainable solutions, create opportunities, and analyse data to support strategy and policy change. A crucial aspect of her work is advocating for and empowering communities to succeed and strive despite oppression, discrimination, and the impact of deprivation, and removing barriers to accessing services.

Committed to partnership working across private, public, and voluntary sectors, Iona has strong communication and relationship manager skills, and can form, maintain and lead successful partnerships with key stakeholders to deliver meaningful plans and solutions that are in the best interests of communities. Iona has extensive experience of working within multi-agency teams alongside residents, stakeholders, local government, public health, the NHS, education providers, the police, and local councillors. Including as a panel member for a Domestic Homicide Review with the purpose to prevent homicide and improve service responses for victims by developing a coordinated multi-agency approach to ensure abuse is identified and responded to successfully at the earliest opportunity.

Iona has experience in setting up Community organisations and charities and has spoken as a Guest Lecturer on the subject of Sustainable Urban design and community development at Oxford Brookes University and been invited to talk about Healthy Urbanism at Oxford University. Iona has a First-Class degree and won an award for her dissertation. She is a focused individual and self-starter with strong skills in resourcefulness, resilience, time management, creativity, and leadership.

CORE SKILLS

- Community Development & Engagement: 17 years working with communities in voluntary, public & private sector
- Communication: excellent communicator verbal and written skills producing high level reports and proposals
- Partnerships: Vast experience of working and managing relationships with a wide range of stakeholders & services including chairing multi-agency meetings.
- Strategy & Problem-solving: Accustomed to finding solutions and implementing plans in high-risk scenarios including conflict management, mediation and managing risk.
- Project Management & implementation: Developing and implementing community projects, working creatively in high pressure environments to meet targets with time and budget limitations.
- Collaboration & Coproduction:
- Working with communities to identify opportunities, challenges and priorities to improve systems and services, and activate communities.

DETAILS

Location:

Oxford: works across Midlands and the South East

Qualifications:

BA (Honours) Social Work