

CV for Mike Cooper trading as Mike Cooper Consultancy

Contact details

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Summary

Independent, self-employed, advisor and consultant working to support and promote the development of community engagement, scrutiny and governance in the public, not-for-profit, voluntary and community sector.

Key skills and areas of expertise

Experience of local authority, education, health and community sector, as an independent consultant, senior elected Councillor and community representative. Knowledge of public and voluntary sector commissioning and service provision, accountability and scrutiny, and how decisions are made and how services inter-relate.

Expertise in the engagement of stakeholders, partners, service users and the public; governance, scrutiny, consultation, communications, partnership and relationship management; performance improvement, strategy and policy development; and understanding of Government policy and legislation.

Key skills include:

- understanding of the theory and practice of governance, scrutiny, engagement, relationship and partnership development, and how to make them effective;
- experience of local government, health and the voluntary/community sector;
- knowledge of legislation, guidance and good practice around public service delivery and decision-making, public involvement, accountability and scrutiny;
- particular knowledge and understanding of patient and public involvement, overview and scrutiny of health and social care, LINKs/HealthWatch;
- work programming, prioritisation, planning activity, effective reviews and questioning;
- monitoring, measuring and assessing effectiveness, review and evaluation;
- analysis, interpretation, explanation and presentation of complex information;
- support and advice to practitioners and participants, training and development;
- facilitation of meetings, workshops and events, briefings and presentations;
- production of well-presented and accessible documents and reports;
- drafting, development and negotiation of policies and procedures, processes, structures and governance.

Extensive experience and skills working closely and effectively with Councillors; Council, health and community sector officers; schools and school governors; representative, voluntary and community groups; individual community representatives, service users, and the wider public; at all levels and in a wide range of environments. Understanding of their different perspectives, and ability to explain issues in ways that they understand.

Qualifications

BSc Statistics and Operations Research, Exeter University 1982.

Training and development as a consultant, councillor and school governor, including project management, recruitment, finance, public policy and government legislation.

Employment / professional history (most recent first)

September 2004–present: Member of CfPS Expert Advisory Team providing support to the development of local authority scrutiny, health scrutiny and LINKs/ HealthWatch.

October 2002–present: Self-employed strategic consultant to local government, public, not-for-profit and voluntary and community sector. Specialising in governance, scrutiny, engagement, consultation, partnership and relationship development; providing advice and support, training and development.

1988–present: Self-employed communications, design and publications consultant.

1999–2002: Leader of the Council, L B Sutton.

1988–1999: Self-employed transport and computer consultant.

1982–1988: Systems analyst, computer and transport consultant.

Other experience

1986–2002: Elected Councillor, London Borough of Sutton.

1990–present: Governor; and 2007–present: Chair of Governors, Greenshaw High School, a large and successful secondary school in Sutton, now an Academy.

Selection of recent work undertaken

Regional Advocate for CfPS for London and the South East: facilitation, coordination, advice and support for regional and cross-borough overview and scrutiny activity and member development to local authorities in London and South East regions.

SW Scrutiny Network: facilitation of session on health scrutiny in the new NHS landscape, the changes and developing relationships, to members and Council and NHS officers at SW Network event.

Bristol City Council: CfPS Health Reforms Scrutiny Development Area, support and advice on understanding roles of and developing relationships between agencies in the new healthcare landscape; facilitation of workshops, production of briefings and reports.

Advice and briefing to a Local Involvement Network on the implications of the Government's NHS reforms and the move from LINKs to HealthWatch.

Research and analysis and production of briefing materials on education legislation, school management, governance and accountability, the role of governors, academy conversion and the role of the local authority in education.

Advice and support to an unincorporated charity: including development of governance, administrative procedures and policies, membership and supporter management, promotions, communication and engagement.

Norfolk CC: CfPS Health Reforms Scrutiny Development Area; advice and support to help prepare for changes affecting health scrutiny, including developing relationships with CCGs, Health and Wellbeing Boards and other partners and stakeholders, and provision of briefing documents and planning a stakeholder seminar.
Support and guidance to a group of 15 secondary schools on transition to academy status and development of a local schools partnership, including analysis and briefings, governance and policy development, support to governors and headteachers.
Analysis and briefing on the 2010 Health and Public Health White Papers and the Health and Social Care Act 2012, with specific regard to involvement, accountability and scrutiny, and the role of the local authority and public, patient and carers groups; production of briefing notes for councillors and voluntary/community sector reps.
Development of Toolkit for Local Involvement Networks' self-assessment and assessment by local authorities and voluntary sector partners, and facilitation of sessions to review LINKs' effectiveness and prepare for their transition to HealthWatch.
L B Richmond: Preparation and facilitation of briefing session for members and officers on the role and powers of health scrutiny and the implications of the Health White Paper. Production of briefing and guidance paper for members on the role of health scrutiny, commissioning in the NHS and the potential effects of the government's NHS reforms.
Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest LINKs: Advice on developing Enter and View procedures and development and delivery of an intensive and practical 2-day training course for representatives for Enter and View.
East of England regional health scrutiny chairs group: Support to the development of health scrutiny engagement and joint work with NHS partners, across the region and on specialised commissioning; helping to plan and facilitate ½ day regional health scrutiny conference, and presenting proposals for development to members' forum.
S W Health Scrutiny Network: Research, development and drafting of protocols for establishing joint health scrutiny committees across S W England to scrutinise proposals for specialised commissioning, including liaison with and advice to individual authorities / scrutiny committees and the NHS regional Specialised Commissioning Group.
L B Bromley / Bromley LINK: Support and advice to local authority on establishment of LINK and Host and contract monitoring; 9 month transitional support to establish the LINK prior to appointment of Host, including development of governance procedures and policies, their negotiation and adoption, facilitation of meetings, advice and support to participants; handover and advice and support to new Host organisation.
L B Camden: Preparation and facilitation of member development session on effective health scrutiny and relations with NHS partners.
L B Redbridge: Preparation and facilitation of member development session on the role of health scrutiny members, in particular in NHS commissioning and health inequalities.
L B Islington / Islington LINK: Support and advice to local authority and LINK members on to facilitate transitional LINK activity and emerging LINK.
Lambeth LINK: Advice and support to local authority, Host and LINK on development of LINK governance, procedures and policies.
L B Kingston: Support and advice on development of effective health scrutiny and facilitation of briefing/development sessions for members.
CfPS EAT: Support and advice on the development of health scrutiny in Redbridge, Camden, Kingston, Islington, Hackney, Lambeth, Barnet, Buckinghamshire, Bromley, North Somerset and Kent; support and advice to members and officers, provision of briefing and guidance notes, facilitation of meetings, member briefings and development.