

Richard McLeod – Biography Information Officer



Driven by my passion for art and design, I started my professional career as an Architect. In 1997 I graduated from the American University of Beirut and I established a real-estate development and management company.

In 2001 I arrived to the UK and I discovered the '3rd Sector'. I was mesmerized by how many people from different walks of life have this passion about helping others. That was a life changing experience for me and I embarked on a new experience journey.

I was involved with the North of England Refugee Services in a volunteering and paid capacity for two years. This was a very enriching experience with its positives and negatives.

Since then I qualified as an Immigration Caseworker and worked with Holliday and Reeves Solicitors and with David Gray Solicitors.

In 2004 I took on managing the Community Work Assessment Consortium North East (CWACNEE) offices for 7 months.

In the same year, I qualified as an adult tutor from the Sunderland University and since then I have delivered workshops in Community Development, Men from Mars & Women from Venus, Equality & Diversity, Digital Image Manipulation, Digital Photography, Swedish massage, Pregnancy massage and Labour massage.

In 2002 I first became involved with BECON as a Community Champion. Then I became a trustee in 2004 until 2007. In 2007 I took a project coordinator/administrator role with one of BECON's projects and now I'm the Information Officer of BECON.

I'm still involved in the community through my role as the Chairman of Cultural Awareness Integration, where we try to help the BME integrate into the fabric of society.

My passions for art and graphic design have led me to win a Visual Voices award from VONNE and I'm still pursuing that career.

I also enjoy the company of my little angel (daughter), Cinema, Digital Photography, Digital Image Manipulation, Pop and Swing Music and reading.