



Mark Burns-Williamson OBE West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Background Information

Mark was born in Castleford and started his working life as an apprentice stonemason working for Wakefield County Council, whilst also studying civil engineering at Leeds Building College. During the 1980s he was also Shop Steward for building union UCATT representing 200 workers.

Mark decided to go back into full time education and undertook an access course in 1989 at Leeds Park Lane College before going to Bradford University to study History and Politics as a mature student gaining a Bsc (Hons). Upon graduating, Mark worked at Cable TV Company as a public relations advisor and then moved onto the Rugby and Football League (RFL) covering the 1995 World cup. He later worked for the Halifax building society at Bradford, before moving over to offices in Leeds.

In 1998 Mark's work became more vocational when he was elected as a District Councillor for Castleford and Glasshoughton and was then appointed to the West Yorkshire Police Authority in 1999 by Wakefield Council. Mark was elected as Chair of the Authority in 2003, and also became chair of the Association of Police Authorities (APA) in 2011, the same year he was awarded an OBE for his services to communities. Mark successfully stood for election as the first West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner in 2012, and was then re-elected in 2016 with an increased majority.

During recent years Mark has been active within the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) on their Executive Board, and is currently the National Chair. Mark has taken lead roles driving work around Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, representing all PCCs. He has been the chair of the National Police Air Service (NPAS) Board since its formation in 2013 and also chairs the West Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB). Mark has been involved personally in community work since his election as a District Councillor since 1998 and has lived and worked all his life within West Yorkshire, several years of that time being in Bradford.

Bradford Community Champions



Sectors worked in and routes taken.	
See above	

What I would like to get involved in (Please tick)			
Inspirational Talk	Visits to my place of work	Mentoring / Coaching young people	Other (please state)
Happy to talk to groups of young people (although my diary is tight!)	Visits are possible, however, coming along to events which we hold for our partners and Third Sector colleagues would be a great thing for young people to become involved with as this will help them understand the role of the PCC and also the vital work which our Third Sector Groups do within communities	For various reasons I am sadly unable to undertake work like this at the moment.	I would be keen to encourage over 13s to become involved in our Youth Advisory Group.