



Simon Robert Atkin

Ex Chief Superintendent, Bradford District
Commander, West Yorkshire

At school in Keighley, Simon enjoyed playing football, cricket and his present favourite, rugby, where he went on to play as 1st Team Captain for Keighley Rugby Union.

Leaving school at 16, he entered the Bradford district's thriving textile industry, securing the position of apprentice overlooker at Thomas Wilson, Low Mills in Keighley. Along with continuing his formal education at Bradford College he also gained an informal education in the mill gaining an understanding of the cultures and of all the different backgrounds and ethnicities that worked or had dealings with in the mill.

At 18, he joined the RAF, and spent five years as a weapons technician, travelling to many countries including Germany, Cyprus, Italy, Canada and the USA which helped develop his understanding of diverse cultures further.

On leaving the RAF, Simon joined the West Yorkshire Police in July 1990. Whilst still serving in the police force, he became a student of Bradford College for a second time, and completed a BA (Hons) in Public Service Management, graduating in 2005.

Simon was promoted to Superintendent at North East Leeds in March 2008, where he was tasked to look at significant levels of serious crime. Having noted that when the 'masterminds' at the top of the criminal pyramid were tackled, the next tier just stepped up to replace them, he recognised that the lowest neighbourhood level needed to be tackled too. Simon developed a neighbourhood model which took a longer term approach to tackling crime which engaged with the community's needs to develop trust and confidence in policing.

In January 2010, Simon was posted to Force Operations in Wakefield where he was responsible for the specialist policing resources and with a further promotion to Chief Superintendent in November 2011, Simon realised his ambition and dream job as Divisional Commander at Bradford South, as this meant he was returning to his roots and the community he has remained passionate about.

Simon's leadership in progressing a policing style to enhance community cohesion was severely challenged in a District where numerous protests have been successfully managed whilst also meeting the challenges of austerity.

In 2013, Simon was asked to lead the Review of Policing in the Bradford District on behalf of the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner, to take



Bradford Community Champions



policing from a two location model to a one location model which he implemented and led until his retirement from policing in 2016.

Since retiring Simon has travelled and spent time with his young family. He has spent time as a Governor at a local secondary school whilst also volunteering at a primary school where two of his children attend.

Sectors worked in and routes taken.	
Armed Forces	Royal Air Force Weapons Technician – 1984 - 1989
Public Sector	West Yorkshire Police – 1990 – 2016

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)
✓		✓	