

## What is your role in Talent Match?

"I am the Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC). WVSC is accountable to the BIG Lottery for Talent Match money and for making sure that the project is a success - with young people at its heart. As part of my job I am also the Manager of Kim who is the Manager of Talent Match. I have chaired the Steering Group meetings when Ian Oakes has not been available."

## Why are young people and helping them important to you?

"I believe that all young people have the potential to do almost anything that they aspire to do. This aspiration is sometimes limited by the opportunities that are made available and the barriers that are put in the way. I want to help young people to take up more opportunities and to overcome the barriers that limit them. Doing this improves the futures for young people and therefore for the whole of society."

## How do you see Talent Match benefiting young people?

"Young people have said that the 1 to 1 support of mentors to help them progress on their journeys is really valuable and I therefore see that as a real benefit. The whole focus of Talent Match is in helping young people to progress in the way that they want to and we work hard to ensure that those young people are at the heart of everything that talent match does. As a result of the approach, we have already seen young people benefitting through increased confidence, greater aspiration, more experience and, in some cases getting jobs – as the project continues we will get a better idea of to what extent young people have benefitted but the early signs are very positive."

*"Don't limit your ambitions  
by the ambitions of  
those around you!"*

**Ian Darch**  
Accountable Body Representative

