

Mid Kent Audit Team

Management

Rich Clarke CPFA (Head of Audit Partnership): Rich became head of the audit partnership on 1 April 2014, succeeding Brian Parsons. He joined the partnership from KPMG, where he had a range of internal and external audit clients across the public sector including LB Islington, Woking BC, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Civil Aviation Authority. Previous to joining KPMG, Rich worked for the Audit Commission for 12 years, where he achieved CIPFA qualification and gained broad experience in local government and NHS audit as well as leading national training on technical accounting, data quality and audit efficiency and project management. In 2015/16 Rich will be begin studying again aiming to achieve CIPFA Accredited Counter Fraud Specialist status.

Ian Cumberworth MAAT (Audit Manager: Ashford & Tunbridge Wells): Ian became the Audit Manager for Ashford and Tunbridge Wells in 2010 when the original partnership was extended having previously been the Audit Manager at Tunbridge Wells. He has experience of working in the private sector and a number of public sector authorities and has gained a broad knowledge and experience within Local Government. He has experience in supporting and leading on corporate projects which has included areas such as Best Value, VFM studies, Procurement & Contracting initiatives and various inspection regimes.

Russell Heppleston CMIIA (Audit Manager: Maidstone & Swale): Russell started working for the Maidstone / Ashford partnership in November 2005, and continued his role as Auditor for the Mid Kent Audit Service when it was established in 2010. He progressed through professional qualifications with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) to achieve both Practitioner and Chartered member status. As an Auditor Russell examined the majority of council services, and had particular interests in project management and governance. In September 2013 Russell was appointed as the Audit Manager for Maidstone and Swale, and is the client manager at both sites and is responsible for delivering the audit plan. In 2015/16 Russell will be studying to achieve accreditation with the Institute of Risk Management.

Auditors & Senior Auditors

Alison Blake ACCA (Senior Auditor): Alison joined the internal audit partnership in 2012 and has worked on a variety of audits since starting. Prior to this Alison worked for South Coast Audit for 7 years where she undertook internal audit work across a range of NHS clients in East Kent. While at South Coast Audit she achieved ACCA qualification. During Alison's career she has completed a wide range of audit work including finance, information governance and risk management, system reviews and reviews of compliance with legislation with the aim of working with the client to help them achieve their objectives and the objectives of the organisation as a whole. Alison is currently on maternity leave but will be re-joining the team in January 2016.

Mark Goodwin (Senior Auditor): Mark joined Ashford Borough Council in January 1999 having previously worked at Maidstone Borough Council in an audit role. He was a founder member of the Ashford and Maidstone Internal Audit Partnership before this developed into the four-way Mid Kent Audit Partnership in April 2010. He is an experienced auditor working extensively across the full spectrum of Council services and activities across a number of local authorities.

Frankie Smith PIIA (Senior Auditor): Frankie Smith started her career in Internal Audit at Kent County Council in 2001 as a Trainee Auditor. In December 2001 she was appointed to the role of Auditor at Maidstone Borough Council. In the last 13 years she has completed audits at Ashford, Maidstone, Swale and Tunbridge Wells and is currently the Senior Auditor at Swale Borough Council. Frankie completed the CIPFA Diploma in Public Audit in 2003, the IIA Diploma in March 2013 and is now studying towards the IIA Advanced Diploma with a view to becoming a tutor for the IIA qualifications.

Claire Walker (Senior Auditor): Claire joined the audit partnership in September 2010, and has wide experience in a variety of sectors and bodies; Local and Central Government, Arts, Broadcasting, Financial Services, NGOs & Not For Profit Sector (domestic & foreign), also Lottery Fund distribution QUANGOS (New Opportunities Fund, Big Lottery Fund, Millennium, Commission, Olympic Delivery Agency, Heritage Lottery Fund, and Sport England) and the associated grant making programmes (in house and outsourced grant administered programmes). Claire delivered some training & mentoring projects for the FCO, DFID and the World Bank in addition to work on European Social Fund projects. Within Local Government Claire has undertaken a wide range of audits with a focus on legal compliance, contracts and governance arrangements. Other audit experience covers outsourcing functions, due diligence, and fraud investigations.

Jen Warrillow PIIA (Auditor): Jen joined Mid Kent Audit in September 2013 from Kent County Council where she trained as an Internal Auditor. She recently completed study for Practitioner of the Institute of Internal Auditors status and during 2015 will study to become a Chartered Member. At KCC Jen undertook a wide range of audits including financial, governance and grant funding internally for the Council and externally for Parish Councils. Previous to joining KCC, Jen worked as an investigator for Swale BC and then Tonbridge & Malling BC. Jen will be providing maternity cover for Alison Blake in the Senior Auditor role until July 2015.

Paul Goodwin AAT (Auditor): Paul has worked for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for over 26 years of which nearly all has been in Internal Audit. Paul is a qualified Accounting Technician.

Jo Herrington PIIA (Auditor): Jo joined the audit partnership on 30 September 2013. She joined the partnership from Gravesham BC, where she worked for nearly nine years. She gained experience of working in the Finance department and the Revenues department before settling in the Internal Audit team in September 2009, who operated a shared management arrangement with Tonbridge & Malling BC. As part of the Internal Audit team she gained broad experience conducting financial and operational audit reviews, as well as being involved in working groups across the authority. Jo recently achieved the IIA Diploma, and will be providing maternity cover for Alison Blake in the Senior Auditor role between July and December 2015.

Trainee Auditors & Others

Mike Pugh (Trainee Auditor): Mike will be joining the audit team in March 2015 as a trainee auditor. He joins us from Baker Tilly where he worked as a risk analyst within their Technology Services internal audit division at clients across the private and public sectors. Michael will be embarking on a professional qualification supported by the service during 2015/16.

Ben Davis (Trainee Auditor): Ben will also be joining the audit team in March 2015 as a trainee auditor. Ben holds a degree in Modern History from UEA and has previous experience in finance teams in the private and voluntary sectors. Ben will also be embarking on a professional qualification supported by the service during 2015/16.

We also have facility within the audit service to seek and deploy additional specialist resource depending on the needs of the service and of our local authority partners. In 2014/15 we used this facility to support delivery of specific audit projects including a significant counter fraud investigation and a major post implementation review of a shared service project.