

## Mosaic North West Regional Leadership Group

### Co-Chairmen

#### **Nighat Awan OBE – CEO, Shere Khan Ltd**



Nighat Awan is one of the country's most successful and high profile businesswomen. She successfully heads one of Manchester's most recognisable Asian food businesses, The Shere Khan Group. Her previous achievements include successes in diverse companies encompassing fashion, floristry property as well as food. From a modest start packing tights for pocket money at the age of 11 to printing T-shirts at 17 and starting her own fashion business at 20, hard work combined with tenacity has earned the diminutive 54 year old numerous honours and awards, most notably an OBE in 2004 for her services to export and charity. Nighat has been Chair of the North West Development Agency supported Ethnic Minority Business Forum (EMBF) since 2006. Nighat's other accolades include: Outstanding Contribution award at Manchester's Food and Drink festival (2004), the Business Award in the Muslim News Awards for Excellence (2005) and the Entrepreneur Award in the Asian Women of Achievement Awards (2005). Nighat was a finalist in the Great Briton 2005 Awards, alongside such household names as Jamie Oliver and Dame Ellen MacArthur, and in July 2006 received an honorary doctorate from Manchester Metropolitan University.

#### **Iftikhar Awan – Awan Consulting Ltd**

Awaiting profile

### Members

#### **Amar Abbass – Chief Executive, Youth Action**



Former Chairperson of Millennium Volunteers National Youth Forum, which has over 100,000 members across the U.K. Ambassador of the UK Youth Parliament. Currently Chief Executive at Youth Action, a youth development agency in Lancashire working with over 5,000+ young people from deprived communities across North West England. Interviewed Colin Powell, live on 'MTV World', in front of 348 million people worldwide. Represented the U.K. on the question panel, out of a worldwide question panel, he was the only one representing the U.K. He attended the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, as part of the official UK delegation. Also attended the World Youth Summit there too. Attended the 'Youth 2002' conference in Denmark, whereby he was one amongst 1000 young people from across Europe to discuss the future of a European Constitution. He has also attended the recent British Council 'Representing Islam' seminar and the Oxford Muntada (Forum) at Christ Church, Oxford. He is on the Executive Board & Partnership of the Blackburn with Darwen Local Strategic Partnership, Children's Fund Management Board, Healthy Living Centre Steering Group too. Amar is also an active member of the local Community Association. Also a Board Member of Changemakers 'Y Speak' England funding panel and a member of the Russell Commission Implementation Panel on Youth Volunteering. He has done extensive work with the National Youth Agency on representing young people in the UK (advocacy etc.), also with the NCB, BYC and also the Lancashire Youth Association. Extensive training delivered and received on a wide range of issues from Diversity & Equality to developing young people as positive citizens.

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Recent work has included working with the ODPM on the Urban Summit in Birmingham. He assisted in organising the Youth Fringe Event and ensuring that young people's views were fed into the whole debate. At Present - Studying 'Public Policy and Politics' at Manchester University. BA (Hons). Amar is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce. Hobbies include Badminton & reading.

### **Komal Adris – First Ethical**

Awaiting profile.

### **Nazir Afzal OBE – Chief Crown Prosecutor for the North of England**



Nazir Afzal OBE is Chief Crown Prosecutor for the North of England and formerly Director, Communities for the Crown Prosecution Service and Legal Director in CPS London. During a 20 year career, Nazir has prosecuted some of the most high profile cases in the country and advised on many others. Many of his cases have set precedents for how the criminal law should operate. He initiated ground breaking conferences and seminars that have addressed; Stalking, Crime in sport, Sexual exploitation, Airport crimes, 'Honour' crimes, forced marriage, anti-social behaviour and gang crime. The present high profile of these subjects owes a considerable amount to Nazir's tireless 'campaigning' on the issues. He leads nationally on several legal topics. Nazir is a tutor for several leadership programmes in the public and private sector. He has made presentations to dozens of diverse organisations in this country and abroad. He is on the European Union list of expert speakers. He has given hundreds of interviews in all forms of media. He is also legal adviser to the successful ITV series "Law and Order UK." In addition to his CPS commitments, Nazir gives a considerable amount of time to charitable work and is trustee of several. He is a Governor of Brunel University and unpaid consultant to voluntary sector organisations working with vulnerable people. Nazir's has received many accolades, in 2005, he was awarded an OBE by the Queen for his work with the CPS and involvement with local communities. He has also had the honour of being the only lawyer to ever prosecute a case before the Queen. In 2007, he was awarded the CPS's Public Servant of the year, named Legal Personality of the Year by the Society of Asian Lawyers, the UK Government's Justice Award 2007 and awarded the Daily Mirror newspaper "People's award" voted for by readers. Recently he was awarded the Asian Woman Magazine Excellence Award and the Law Society/Bar Council Mentoring award. Nazir was also selected for the Asian Power 100 along with the Muslim Power 100 list, thereby recognised as one of the 100 most influential leading Muslims and Asians in the UK.

### **Shahida Ahmed – Creative Colours**



Shahida Ahmed was born in Nelson, Lancashire from Indian/Pakistan Heritage and is a traditional Islamic artist specialising in clay and paint. Shahida uses art as a platform to create dialogue and cohesion and was given recognition in 2007 as the first female Muslim ceramic artist born in UK from Pakistani heritage. Shahida is also an accomplished educator and consultant for creative learning methods for learning, having taught in both primary and secondary schools, including an international post. Highly involved with the community and schools at grassroots level, Shahida is the



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founder of three arts organisations for children, women and Middle Eastern and South Asian Arts as well as Director of Creative Colours, the Hoopoe Club, Raang Community Arts and Xevents. Shahida was also the first Independent female Muslim Councillor and Vice-Chair on Nelson Town Council. Shahida is a presenter on Pendle Community Radio 103.1 FM. She is also a representative on many company, council, and voluntary boards and panels across the North West.

### **Shujat Ali – CEO, Asian Sound Radio**

Shujat Ali is the youngest owner of radio stations in the UK and he is highly successful and respected throughout the Radio creative industry, which recognises his enthusiasm, skill, business entrepreneurial acumen and willingness to undertake sheer hard work to achieve his objectives and goals. This respect is mirrored in the Asian Community which provides Asian Sound Radio with more than 400,000 regular listeners in the north of England. It is almost 18 years since Shujat moved into Radio sponsorship Sales. Within a short time, his drive and technical skill made him a top performing executive and from then on he devoted his career to radio creative Industry. While working for other Asian and Ethnic stations, he set up and advertising and sales agency to support his and other RSL operators throughout the UK. Few were surprised when against stiff competition he won the licence in 1995 for Lancashire and Manchester. In less than 3 years on air, Asian Sound Radio won thousands of loyal friends both in the Northwest and in the nation for its pioneering charity and commercial work, helping a range of worthwhile causes included helping South Asian countries, when disaster struck earth quakes and flood. Shoe box appeals was done in 2010 for Pakistan flood victims. ASR Charitable Foundation Trust was formed in memory of Shujat's late mother. This charity is involved with water projects and is presently started to work with Orphans. Asian Sound Radio's work – both on and off air – has been widely recognised. It was given an award as one of the top businesses in the North West at promoting ethnic culture to a wider audience. Shujat Ali, Asian Sound Radio's founder and proprietor, received this prestigious award from John Humphreys, the presenter of the BBC's 'Today Programming'. In 1998, Shujat was also invited to meet Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace Garden Party arranged for ethnic achievers in the UK. Shujat is regularly invited to address local business meetings about the Asian Cultures and the contributions that less high profile Asian residents can make to British business and community life. Shujat Ali was recently named one of the 100 most influential Asian people in the UK by Asian Power 100, a list compiled by the Institute of Asian Professionals.

### **Aamer Chaudry - Senior Manager, Accenture**

Aamer is a Senior Manager in Accenture's IT Strategy and Transformation (ITST) practice based in the UK. He has been part of this practice since 1999 and has consistently worked on high profile assignments across the globe. He has a considerable wealth of expertise gained at CXO and senior levels within major organisations. He is an authority in IT Strategy, IT Transformation and IT Governance working across the all industries and sectors. As a senior member of the UK ITST practice Aamer has played a key role in developing the practice.

[www.mosaicnetwork.co.uk](http://www.mosaicnetwork.co.uk) • [mosaic@bitc.org.uk](mailto:mosaic@bitc.org.uk) • +44 (0)20 7566 8730

c/o Business in the Community, 137 Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7RQ

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### **Nina Issac – Davenport Green Hall**



Nina Khan was born in Lahore and came to the UK at a very young age. She is the Proprietor and Managing Director of Tailormade Venues collection. Tailormade Venues encompasses two stunning Grade I and Grade II Listed large Estates located in Cheshire with a reputation of delivering outstanding bespoke events specialising in Corporates and Weddings business. Nina runs the business with her husband Raja, the CEO of Tailormade Venues. In the three and a half years that the business has been running, bookings have gone from strength to strength with over 230 events carried out in the last twelve months attracting major PLC's and Celebrities - a remarkable success story given the current economic climate and engaging over one hundred full-time and part-time staff. Prior to entering the hospitality industry, Nina's skills lay in the Financial Industry sector. At the age of 26, Nina was the Marketing Director of a privately owned financial company and was later employed by Julian Gibbs Financial Services and the American based Alexander and Alexander Consulting Group and later City Intermediaries (part of City Bank) where she enjoyed a highly successful career. She was recognised as one of the financial industry's leading Consultant engaged in advising corporations and high net individuals on matters of investments, taxation, trusts and business laws with turnover running into millions. During her fifteen year career span, she won numerous financial industry based awards and prizes earning a six figure income at the age of 32.

### **Yvonne Sampson**



Yvonne Sampson is experienced in developing strategies that make a difference to business people in the North West of England. She has a thirty year track record in advising individuals, businesses, local and national government on enterprise and employment issues. Yvonne joined Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) in 2006 with a remit to boost levels of enterprise in the region. She has held senior level posts in people (skills/ HR), as regional enterprise champion and her current role is as strategy manager for enterprise culture. Yvonne spent five years as a customer-focused business adviser for Business Link, delivering tailored solutions for individual businesses and developing specific training programmes to meet broader needs. Throughout her career, Yvonne has supported over 500 businesses to thrive and grow. At Business Link she focused on dedicated support to meet the needs of women in business, and developed a regional centre of expertise in this area. Creating new enterprise opportunities at Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council, 1990-2000. In her decade at Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC), working for the Training and Enterprise Council (TEC), Yvonne helped to change the face of business in Wigan, ensuring that effective support opened up opportunities for would-be entrepreneurs from communities who would not previously have considered running their own business.

### **Atifa Shah – Accenture**



An active figure in her community, Atifa Shah was elected Youth MP for Rochdale in 2005. A Graduate of University of Manchester and founder of four businesses, Atifa is currently a Technology Consultant at Accenture in the field of Infrastructure Consulting and has predominantly worked in Financial Services and Pharmaceutical industries. She leads the Accenture Muslim Network and plays a leading role in Accenture's corporate citizenship affairs and recruitment. Her Active role in society is demonstrated through the various positions she holds

such as a director of Link4Life and a Governor for Rochdale 6th Form College. Atifa has in the past worked for IBM UK both in Software Operations and Recruitment (2007/2008), chaired a Muslim Advisory Panel (2005-2009), chaired Rochdale Women's Welfare Association (2007-2010), and served on the Pakistan Britain Business Chamber Board of Directors at the Pakistan High Commission. She is also a graduate of HRH The Prince of Wales' Young Muslim Leadership Summer School at Oxford and several other prestigious leadership programmes and regularly contributes to key Muslim issues in main stream media such as Sky News, Channel 4 and the BBC. In her capacity as Youth MP and a Muslim young woman Atifa has contributed to a number of government initiatives, policies and strategic debates around Terrorism, Housing, Private Health Care, NHS, Education and Welfare, Urban Development for the UK Core Cities, Safer Communities and Foreign Affairs.

On the philanthropy front, Atifa has played leading roles in number of charitable initiatives with organisations such as Islamic Relief, Springhill Hospice, James Caan Foundation and has more recently, evolved a fundraising brand "The White Table Dinner", with the first event held at The Foreign Office London in October 2011. Her most recent focus and efforts have been on rebuilding Pakistan and the East Africa Drought.

Atifa's recent achievements at Mosaic have included managing the relationship between Mosaic and Accenture, through enabling sponsorship of the Mosaic Talent Awards, Mosaic Northwest Launch Dinner, and hosting HRH's Prince of Wales Seeing in Believing Tour in June 2011. She has been the key catalyst in discussions to establish the Mosaic@Accenture Network, the first corporate network of its kind for Mosaic. In 2010, her team of mentees from Manchester Academy won the National Enterprise Challenge, setting a prime example of leadership and inspiring success for mentors from the leadership team itself. Atifa brings to the board her skills, contacts and networks to inspire many others to become engaged in their own community leadership.

### **Carol Ann Whitehead - Managing Director, The Zebra Partnership**



With a degree in Business Studies and a background as a buyer for the Burton retail group in London, Carol Ann moved into publishing with the Guardian Media Group before relocating back home to head up the advertising department of the Manchester Evening News in the early 1990s. After six years with the Guardian Media Group, and having built the classified sales team into a successful and self-sufficient unit, she was approached by the American corporation International Data Group (IDG) to work as an Associate Publisher in their newly acquired UK consumer publishing division in Macclesfield. While working for IDG and reporting directly to the US head office, Carol Ann was instrumental in the launch and promotion of several national newsstand magazines, working closely with key entertainment clients such as Sony, Nintendo and Electronic Arts. For her efforts, Carol Ann was named Publisher of the Year by the IDG Publishing Institute at a ceremony held in Budapest in 1998. The following year IDG offered Carol Ann a post on the core business to business titles in the US. Rather than relocate overseas, Carol Ann took the opportunity to join her husband, an author and magazine editor, in establishing The Zebra Partnership, a freelance media consultancy working with private, public and third sector organisations on a variety of projects and campaigns. The Big Issue In The North hired Carol Ann to oversee their advertising department, while ChildLine's Manchester office benefited from her skills as a corporate fundraiser and celebrity liaison, as she gained endorsements and support from stars such as Daniel Craig. For Shelter, she organised the

charity's national 12 month partnership with the Co-operative Group, raising £1.2m. The Prince's Trust appointed her as Head of External Relations to manage the 30th anniversary of the charity with its first ever telethon, supermarket partnership and chaperoning celebrity guests and real-life young ambassadors. As well as managing regional visits by HRH The Prince of Wales, she was responsible for looking after guests from the North West at a garden party at Buckingham Palace. More recently, as Deputy Managing Director of Assured Events she organised Business Link's first ever conference targeting the African Caribbean business community. She also headed the management of eleven Business Link "Survive and Thrive" conferences across the region; a series of conferences and symposiums for the Department of Energy and Climate Change and a consortium of eight northern universities. There have also been more light-hearted ventures, such as novelty "Back to School" team building events for Kellogg's. Since 2004 Carol Ann has managed five Royal visits to the North West. She undertook script and speaker liaison support for the Cherie Blair Foundation's "Women Mean Business" Conference in Mumbai. As a PR and event management consultant for the NWDA Ethnic Minority Business Forum Awards 2008 – 2010, she introduced personal and group-based business coaching. Carol Ann was also responsible for the PR and management of the 2010 National Farmers Union Conference in Cumbria during the General Election as well as managing the re-design and launch of the new training brochure for Migrant Workers North West. She was also invited to present and facilitate a workshop at their national conference at the International Slavery Museum in January 2011.

### **Omar Haider – Director Acquisitions and Operations**



Omar Haider is a business professional with a number of interests spanning healthcare, construction and property investments. He is currently leading on the commissioning and development of a large mental healthcare facility for the elderly in addition to fuelling his continued ambition on a new business venture. In addition to his fervour and passion for business, Omar has gained a significant experience in corporate markets in banking having previously worked on managing a series of portfolios specialising in structuring and executing high value investment and development deals of up to £25m. Commended for being part of a team with a collective balance sheet of £1bn, Omar played a key role in advising on a regional strategy for the business needs of the rapidly developing ethnic minority community and structuring of Islamic Finance deals, whilst working for a major bank and studying with the Securities and Investments Institute.

Outside of his professional and business life, Omar is an active member of Islamic Relief's North West corporate and philanthropy team, and has played leading roles in a number of strategic initiatives surrounding building relationships with corporate organisations, high net worth individuals and leading business figures in the North West region with a pre-determined objective of securing strong charitable donations. More recently, he formed part of a delegation that visited Sudan to assess and contribute strategic work and fundraising for the development of sustainable humanitarian work in two areas of extreme hardship. Omar is a natural networker and also sits on the North West Muslim Professional Network board.

Omar is a graduate from Manchester Business School at the University of Manchester and in the past has held positions as Secretary for National Union of Students and served on the National Sustainable Environmental Business Committee Board. He is also a graduate of



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several other prestigious leadership programmes including the Manchester Leadership Programme.

His Mosaic involvement began as a mentor in 2010 and has been a lead mentor for the APAX Mosaic Enterprise Challenge together with sitting on the Burnley and Pendle Local Delivery Group. The culmination of his strategic, corporate and entrepreneurial experience allows him to bring a number of skills and attributes to the board.

