

## **Paces Executive Pen Portraits**

**Norman Perrin** is the Chief Executive of Paces Sheffield. He is a qualified teacher and has spent his working life in the field of education and development working with young people. He is an experienced manager and has extensive experience of conductive education, working with people with disabilities and managing complex financial projects. Norman has a vision and imagination that has been instrumental in the achievement of Paces.

Norman's youngest daughter, Sarah, has cerebral palsy following a difficult birth resulting in a lack of oxygen. Like many families in the late 1980's early 1990's they took Sarah to the Peto Institute for her to benefit from Conductive Education.

Wanting to remove the difficulties that families faced in uprooting and going to Hungary, he worked with parents in Sheffield to get support for establishing provision in Sheffield. He negotiated and led on the first summer school in Sheffield and these ran for 4 years. Norman became Chief Executive in 1997 and set up the School on its current site and he continues his work to realise the mission of the charity: 'Supporting families supporting children with disabilities into independent adulthood as active citizens - with a particular focus on physical disability and especially by the provision of Conductive Education'.

**Karen Hague.** Along with Norman Perrin, she was one of the founder members of Paces and has been committed to its aims for many years. She is an efficient and effective manager with considerable experience in administration, people management and development and financial planning and management.

Karen became a mother at a relatively young age and her only child has cerebral palsy following a premature birth. Naturally this was a very difficult time as she came to terms with the extent of her daughter's disability. In the late 1980's she heard of Conductive Education following a much-publicised documentary called 'Standing Up for Joe' and attended meetings organised by the special school her daughter attended to learn more. They were supportive of parents taking their children to the Peto Institute and she was able to fundraise to take her daughter there from 1989 to 1993. She was a member of the local parents group and that is where she met Norman. She supported the early summer schools and development of the Paces charity. Her commitment to the system of conductive education is strong as it was clear that it had a unique approach to dealing with the needs of children with motor and learning difficulties not seen in the special educational system in the UK. Her regret is that her daughter was nearly 9 years old when she was first became involved.

Her working background was in administration and she left a post at Sheffield University to take up a general role at the Paces Campus. Her special interest now is in supporting families and this is a role that she continues to develop within the Charity. Her work with families was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list when she received an MBE in 2004.

**Ray Kohn** is the Business Development Manager. Ray has been a Principal, Vice Principal and Quality Assurance manager in Further & Adult education. He has been Managing Director of his own company, Quesco, since 1997 and has vast experience in running training and development programmes. He has overseen the resourcing and project management of a number of the European-funded programmes and conceived, managed and resourced the Creativity Initiative, a European funded research and training project for Yorkshire & Humberside. Ray runs capacity building programmes and is a quality assurance specialist and has been supporting Paces since 1999.

**Gabor Fellner**

Gabor became Headmaster in 2002. He attended the Peto Institute in 1972 and became the world's first male conductor.

He has qualifications/accreditation in the following:

Teacher of Biology 1979 - Hungary

Special Needs Qualification 1985 - Hungary

Postgraduate Degree in Education 2002 - New Zealand

Qualified Teacher Status 2004 - UK

Anatomy and Physiology Diploma 2009 - UK

He has practised as a conductor in many different settings. He has served as Principal at a Residential School for children with motor disorders and learning difficulties in Hungary. He introduced conductive education to New Zealand in the 1980s and helped establish it in California in the 1990s. Gabor oversees the training of new conductors, continuing professional development of all school staff and the learning programmes of the school. He retains close links with staff in other mainstream schools who require advice and guidance when working with children with cerebral palsy.