

## New VAAC CEO, Jackie Sumner



Jackie has forty years' experience across the fields of Housing, Community Development, Arts Development, Sports Development, Youth Services and Higher Education. Over her career, she has worked for charities, colleges and a range of local authorities to help instigate positive change in communities. Her last role was the Head of Community Investment at Town and Country Housing (Peabody) Group and was the Chief Officer for Town and Country's charitable Foundation – a post she has held since December 2006. Jackie was a key asset in the growth of this foundation, from establishing the charity, its business plan, and associated funding. The Foundation delivered a wide range of investment initiatives as well as wider neighbourhood regeneration programmes.

Since 2018, Jackie has worked across the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Housing Association with a focus on economic inclusion and employment. During the pandemic she led on the co-ordination of the VCSE response. She was previously a trustee of Community Development Exchange, a national body which aims to promote social justice and drive through positive improvements in people's everyday life via the community development approach. She was also a Trustee for Architecture for Humanity who provide pro bono support to building projects across the Third World. Jackie's key experience is in delivering 'genuine' resident involvement and the co-design of services. She has spent her career and her voluntary life working with individuals and communities to make a difference and her track record includes the establishment of award-winning charities, social enterprises, innovative partnerships and community assets.

Jackie says;

*"Joining VAAC as their Chief Executive is a privilege as I know that the VCSE sector in Arun and Chichester is full of individuals who are committed to improving lives of local individuals, families and communities. I am looking forward to working together so we can deliver sustained, meaningful and impactful change. This is now a higher priority given the negative consequences of the pandemic. The VCSE voice, our joint work and the partnerships we continue to build with the public and business sectors is key to effectively responding to these needs"*