

33} years

2025.
Inspiring
Women
AWARDS

Inspiring } Women

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

When the first Inspiring Women Awards (NWWof AA) lunch was held in 1993, it was relatively unique. It is, therefore, a testament to the women recognised then and since that these awards have continued to thrive amongst the multitude of award ceremonies that exist today. Inspiring stories told by Inspiring women.

Whilst the format has changed, the philosophy remains the same: to recognise and celebrate the inspiring achievements of women in the North West, North Wales and now, Nationally & Internationally.

I am indebted to my independent judges for their time and diligence in discussing the merits of all the nominations before reaching their decisions. The Finalists represent the diversity of nominees, inspiring the judges with their stories.

We are delighted to welcome three special guests, all women celebrating their own successful careers in print: Maria Breslin, Sarah Lester and Clare Mackintosh. Their profiles are on page 7. We also welcome a new Emcee this year, Cheshire Life Editor, Joanne Goodwin who will be putting her own journalistic skills to the test.

A huge thank you to our sponsors Deloitte, Hall Brown, Cheshire Life, Lancashire Life, Premier Wealth Solutions and drinks companies, Spirit of Manchester (Manchester Gin) and London Essence. Thanks also to those businesses who have donated to the gift bags & raffle.

For all their professional support and understanding, I would like to thank Angela Powers for her filmmaking skills, Lynne Waterfield for her cool judgement and support; programme designer, Steve Dutton; The Lowry Hotel's events & banqueting teams; Eamonn Hunt from Village Green; Social Media producer, Lucy Haynes; ; Nadine Isaacs and Frankie Mears who, starting as students, have supported the awards for 11 years and, of course, my children Hank and Olivia who started the whole thing!

I would like to thank you all for attending and supporting these Awards both today and over the years. I hope you have another enjoyable and memorable lunch.



Jacqueline Hughes-Lundy
Awards Founder

Inspiring Women

2025 Inspiring Women AWARDS

Email: Jacqueline@inspiringawards.co.uk

www.inspiringawards.co.uk



[inspiringwomenawards](https://www.instagram.com/inspiringwomenawards)



[Inspiring Women Awards](https://www.facebook.com/InspiringWomenAwards)

TIMETABLE

12-12.20pm – **Drinks Reception**

12.30pm – **Welcome**

Jacqueline Hughes-Lundy

Founder: *Inspiring Women Awards*

Constance Award

Women Making Waves Award

Sponsored by

Olivia Henry Associates

Inspiring Young Women

Foundation

Charity Appeal

Inspiring Young Woman Award

Sponsored by *Hall Brown LLP*

**Sustainable Award for Women
Making an Impact**

Sponsored by *Deloitte LLP*

Here Come the Girls Award

Sponsored by *Premier Wealth*

Entrepreneur Award

Sponsored by *Lancashire Life*

Community Award

Sponsored by *Cheshire Life*

Raffle Draw

On behalf of

Inspiring Young Women Foundation

4.45pm – **Closing Remarks**

Jacqueline Hughes-Lundy

Emcee: Joanne Goodwin

MENU

STARTERS

Braised Leek and Duxelles Mushroom Tart

Tarragon Emulsion

Allergens: Gluten, Egg

MAINS

Pan-seared Seabass

Saffron Parmentier, Samphire & Petit Pois,

Slow Roasted Red Pepper Sauce

Allergens: No major

OR

Potato Gnocchi

Roasted Courgette, pepper coulis,

Baby Spinach Toasted Pine Nuts, Herb Crumble

Allergens: Gluten, Nuts

DESSERT

Passion Fruit & Mango Torte, Coconut & Lime

Allergens: Dairy, Gluten



THE SPIRIT OF MANCHESTER

DISTILLERY

We're proud to support the Inspiring Women's Awards. A celebration of bold, brilliant women making a difference.

Founded and led by our incredible director Jen Wiggins, Spirit of Manchester Distillery knows the power of female leadership first-hand. Here's to the women shaping the future.

THE LONDON ESSENCE Co.

London Essence is a proud sponsor, recognising the outstanding women who are making a real impact in their fields.

We celebrate those who lead with determination, creativity, and purpose, and we're honoured to support their work and achievements.



HONOURING QUIET STRENGTH

THE CONSTANCE AWARD

The Constance Award is presented in memory of my mum, Connie.

For many of us, our mothers are our first role models - our constant supporters, always there with quiet strength, wise words, and unwavering love. They lift our spirits, guide us gently, and protect us when we need it most (even when we don't think we do).

Our biggest cheerleaders

This award is not open to nominations. It is mine to give, and is reserved only for women who, in my view, truly embody those same qualities of compassion, resilience, and steadfast support.

Since its inception in 2018, just four remarkable women have received the Constance Award — a testament to its rarity and meaning.

This year, the recipient is a woman who epitomises support, although not always quietly!

THE CONSTANCE AWARD

CAROL ANN WHITEHEAD



Queen Maker &
Agent of Change

Carol Ann Whitehead epitomises the phrase 'ask a busy woman'. Always ready to support or find a solution, without expecting anything in return. A strategic

planner, and mentor, she is a dynamic force in the world of inclusion, championing underrepresented voices globally.

Her leadership spans multiple sectors, including her pivotal role as Operations Director of the historic Portico Library, where she is transforming it into a hub of creativity and inclusion, revitalising this important landmark of historic Manchester.

Carol Ann is also a member of GM4Women and a Trustee for 50:50 Parliament's 'Amplifying Muted Voices' campaign, empowering Northern women of colour into political office. A global speaker and award recipient, in 2023, she was featured in Diversein.com prestigious list of "Women Who Change the World" she's reshaping leadership, creating opportunities, and designing new spaces for diverse voices to thrive.

WOMEN MAKING WAVES FINALISTS

This award seeks to recognise women's contribution worldwide in community, sustainability, education or business.

KHURSHID BANO



A Relentless Force for Gender Justice

Khurshid Bano is the founder and CEO of Da Hawwa Lur ("Daughters of Eve"), a pioneering NGO fighting for gender justice in Pakistan.

In 1994, she broke barriers as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's first female union leader, later launching the province's first all-women's union. Her organisation combats gender-based violence, provides legal aid and trauma counselling, and supports displaced women through capacity-building programmes.

A vocal advocate with the Pakistan Alliance Against Sexual Harassment, Khurshid has driven reforms across 32 government departments, championing safer, more equitable workplaces. Her leadership blends bold activism with compassionate action, offering immediate support and long-term systemic change.

Through Da Hawwa Lur, she uplifts voices silenced by tradition and challenges deeply entrenched norms. For Khurshid, empowerment isn't symbolic - it's practical, urgent, and nation-changing. She is proof that one woman's courage can reshape a country's future.

FROHAR HAMIDI



Championing Girls' Education in Afghanistan

Frohar Hamidi is the founder of Sun's Girls Organization (SGO), a grassroots initiative created in response to the Taliban's ban on girls' education in Afghanistan.

Through SGO, Frohar provides free online education to young girls across the country, supported by a team of 20 dedicated volunteers. The organisation delivers non-formal, accessible learning in subjects like English, Maths, Computer Science, Art, Photography, and even Astronomy. SGO's tailored programs - ranging from accelerated learning to life skills and vocational training, are designed to break barriers and offer hope where it's most needed.

Frohar's work doesn't just restore access to learning; it helps break the cycle of poverty and create long-term, sustainable change. Her unwavering commitment to empowering Afghan girls through education makes her a powerful advocate for equity, resilience, and a brighter future for the next generation.



Inspiring Women

JACQUELINE HUGHES-LUNDY

AWARDS FOUNDER & ORGANISER

Championing Women's Voices and the Power of Reinvention

Jacqueline has dedicated over three decades to celebrating women's achievements. Recognised as one of I Love Manchester's Most Influential Women and included in Cheshire Life's Top 90 Influencers in Public Life, she is best known as the founder and organiser of the Inspiring Women Awards, a platform she has led for 33 years.

Her passion for storytelling and amplifying underrepresented voices has recently taken a new direction with the launch of Third Quarter Women - a dynamic publishing platform dedicated to women aged 50 to 75. The venture aims to challenge outdated narratives around ageing, offering thoughtful content that celebrates, empowers, and supports women in this age group. Honouring their wisdom, individuality, experience and style, whilst navigating the "Third Quarter" of life.

Jacqueline's professional background includes a successful career in financial services, where she rose to Director at a Legal 500 firm. She later established Olivia Henry Associates, a consultancy working with national and international clients on strategy, events, campaigns, and research. Today, she mentors founder CEOs as a trusted advisor, offering discreet and honest guidance rooted in experience.

In academia, Jacqueline helped create and teach a new degree in tourism, hospitality, and events at North Wales Business School, earning a rapid promotion to Senior Lecturer and later joining Chester Business School. She remains active in higher education as a visiting lecturer at the Université de Picardie Jules Verne in Laon, France; Advisory Director of the Laon International Food & Drink Festival, and External Examiner at University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Her board roles span advertising, tourism, charities, and media, including the Advertising Standards Authority, FareShare Greater Manchester, Emerge 3Rs, The Millennium Quarter Trust, Urbis Trading, Forever Manchester, and ITC's Viewers Consultative Council.

A published food and travel writer, awards judge, and broadcaster, Jacqueline's global recognition includes a 2020 honour from the Swiss based organisation, WIN (Women's International Networking) for her contribution to inspiring women worldwide.



GUEST SPEAKERS



MARIA BRESLIN

Trailblazing Editor and Advocate for Journalism

Maria Breslin made history in 2020 as the first woman appointed editor of the Liverpool Echo. A UCLan graduate, she began her journalism career in Greater Manchester before joining the Press Association and later Reach plc. As digital editor, Maria led the Echo's transformation into a modern, digital-first newsroom. Beyond editing, she champions the future of journalism. Maria advises the City of Liverpool College, serves on the NCTJ's accreditation board, and is a member of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee.

A passionate supporter of women in media, Maria values the strength of female networks and mentorship. She brings inspiration, experience, and leadership to every space she enters - shaping not only stories, but the storytellers of tomorrow.

She says, "Today promises to be a fantastic day celebrating and recognising the achievements of many brilliant women and I, for one, can't wait."



SARAH LESTER

Champion of Regional Journalism

Sarah Lester is the editor of the Manchester Evening News, the UK's largest regional news brand. Starting her career there over 25 years ago as a reporter, rising through the ranks to lead investigative work that shaped key local and national issues. As Head of News, she steered the newsroom's successful shift to a digital-first model.

Sarah is a passionate advocate for journalism that drives change. She's especially proud of the MEN's campaigning, including the impactful reporting that helped bring about Awaab's Law, securing safer housing conditions nationwide.

A respected leader and newsroom innovator, Sarah continues to champion public-interest journalism. She says, "It's a privilege to join the Inspiring Women Awards and celebrate the achievements of so many incredible women."



CLARE MACKINTOSH

Bestselling Author

Clare Mackintosh is a former police inspector turned internationally bestselling author, with over three million books sold and translations in more than 40 languages. Her debut novel *I Let You Go* was a Sunday Times and New York Times bestseller, winning the 2016 Theakston Crime Novel of the Year. Two more Sunday Times number ones followed: *I See You* and *Let Me Lie*.

Clare's emotionally resonant storytelling continued with *After the End*, while her 2021 thriller *Hostage* became another bestseller. In 2022, she launched the DC Ffion Morgan series, set on the England-Wales border, now in TV development.

Clare says, "I can't wait to be in a room with all the nominees and guests and know there will be some magical connections made as a result. Bring it on!"



JOANNE GOODWIN EMCEE

A Life in Journalism and a Passion for Storytelling

Joanne, Editor of Cheshire Life, brings decades of journalistic experience and a deep passion for storytelling to the Inspiring Women Awards, where she interviews finalists with empathy and flair.

Beginning her career in 1982 at The Sentinel, she navigated a newsroom with few women and overcame bias to become Day Editor, leading a 120-strong team. After redundancy in 2006, she rebuilt her career, eventually finding her dream role at Cheshire Life in 2020.

Her presence at the awards as our Emcee & Finalists' interviewer honours her belief: stories have power - and women's voices deserve to be heard.

She says, "The Inspiring Women Awards is a day filled with incredible stories that will make you laugh, bring a tear to your eye, and most of all, inspire you."

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INSPIRING YOUNG WOMEN AWARD 2025

ROYA RASOULI

The Designer Putting Women's Health at the Heart of Fashion.

At 27, Roya Rasouli is the visionary founder of FemWear, a fashion brand dedicated to women with chronic health conditions like endometriosis.



After a decade-long struggle for a diagnosis, Roya channelled her experience into creating stylish, adaptive clothing that prioritises comfort without sacrificing confidence. Her designs, featuring soft, flexible fabrics and thoughtful tailoring, cater to the daily realities of those living with pain and discomfort. But her mission goes beyond fashion. Roya runs workshops, leads support groups, and advocates for better understanding of women's health. As a proud Kurdish woman and ambassador for The King's Trust, she's breaking taboos, challenging stigma, and showing how lived experience can drive innovation. A Pride of Britain finalist, Roya's work is reshaping fashion - and the conversation around invisible illness.

SOPHIA BEN YOUSEF HIGHLY COMMENDED

A dynamic inclusion leader at Accenture, driving gender equity and authentic leadership through bold initiatives that empower 1,000+ professionals and champion the next generation of diverse leaders. With her passion and vision, she continues to create opportunities for others to rise and ensures that the future of leadership is diverse, inclusive, and bold.



INSPIRING YOUNG WOMEN FOUNDATION



In 2010, to mark 18 years of the Inspiring Women Awards, we set up the Inspiring Young Woman award to inspire our next generation. The Inspiring Young Woman Foundation was set up alongside the award to provide bursaries for the winners and to fund projects aimed at supporting our region's young women.

So far more than £26,000 has been paid out in bursaries and projects. In 2019 we fully funded our first external project through Warrington Youth Zone, The Pretty Tough programme, which supported 30 vulnerable young women over 6 months.

This year we supported an Active Futures grant to Her-Place. This project will provide a girls-only program of physical activities, including sports, fitness classes, and self-defence.

Delivered by local female instructors, the inclusive atmosphere will help will overcome barriers to girls' engagement in physical activities.

The awards lunch is our main fundraising activity to support our IYWA winners and finance projects, your generous contributions are important to continuing this financial support.

Thank you.



The IYW Foundation is a fund administered by Cheshire Community Foundation.

Charity number 1143711

RAFFLE

We are grateful to the following businesses which have donated prizes to the raffle in aid of the Inspiring Young Woman Foundation. We hope you will consider supporting them in turn.

Overnight stay for two with breakfast at the Hilton Manchester Deansgate. hilton.com/en/hotels/mandghi-hilton-manchester-deansgate
Wake up to floor-to-ceiling views and spend the evening sipping cocktails at Cloud 23 - the highest bar in the city.

A 12 month print & digital subscription to Cheshire Life. cheshirelifemagazine.co.uk
Cheshire society's kings & queens grace these pages – including the Inspiring Women Awards.

A wellness candle & diffuser by OSHI Organics. oshiorganics.com
You are invited to embrace a lifestyle rooted in wellness, beauty, and mindful living. With an unwavering commitment to vegan, organic, essential oil beauty & lifestyle products that's don't harm the environment.

Overnight stay for two with breakfast at The Lowry Hotel. thelowryhotel.com
"Inspired by the independent spirit that's always distinguished Manchester, we do things our own way and understand that's what sets The Lowry Hotel apart."

Immersive Rum Blending experience at Spirit of Manchester. spiritofmanchester.co.uk
Enjoy a guided tasting before blending your own 700ml bottle to take home. The state-of-the art home of spirits in the centre of Manchester. Founded as a humble dining-room distillery in 2015, now an iconic, independent spirits producer.

A 12 month print & digital subscription to Lancashire Life. lancashirelifemagazine.co.uk
A who's who of Lancashire grace these pages – including the Inspiring Women Awards.

Overnight stay for two with breakfast at The Marriott Victoria & Albert Hotel. marriott.com/en-us/hotels/manva-manchester-marriott-victoria-and-albert-hotel/overview/
Originally a 19th-century warehouse, this luxury 4-star city centre hotel is where the Inspiring Women Awards began back in 1993.

ADDITIONAL PRIZE - SEE CHARITY ENVELOPE
Decadent Tea for Two at Gotham. hotelgotham.co.uk

SUSTAINABLE AWARD FOR WOMEN MAKING AN IMPACT FINALISTS

Recognising those women who are making a positive and sustainable impact, whether it's environmental, digital or educational transformation or through the circular economy or supply chain transparency.

ALIZA AYAZ



ESG Consultant and Climate Changer

At just 25, Aliza Ayaz is already a trailblazing ESG consultant at TORI Global, working with major clients like H&M, M&G, and Aviva to drive sustainable business transformation. She led

H&M's launch of a sustainable clothing line and helped Aviva embed ESG criteria into investment strategies.

A UN Goodwill Ambassador and international climate activist, Aliza founded the Climate Action Society at UCL, which contributed to the UK Parliament's climate emergency declaration. Her academic background in Population Health and Epidemiology equips her to tackle sustainability from a health and environmental lens.

She was also the youngest and first British Pakistani consultant hired by Cannes Film Festival to design its sustainability strategy.

With global impact across fashion, finance, and public policy, Aliza's leadership continues to inspire the next generation of climate innovators and changemakers.

DR. SALMABANU ISMAILBHAI LUHAR



Building a Sustainable Future

Dr. Luhar is a Marie Curie and UKRI fellow transforming civil engineering through sustainability and innovation. At the University of Bradford, she pioneers

eco-friendly, 3D-printed building materials using industrial waste - offering real solutions to climate and construction challenges.

Her "No to Cement" philosophy champions a circular economy and low-carbon future. With nearly a decade of global research experience and over 20 awards, including the Top 50 Women in Engineering 2023, Dr. Luhar is also a powerful voice for women in STEM. She merges cutting-edge science with social purpose, driving ethical supply chains and reshaping construction through digital innovation.

As an educator and advocate, she inspires the next generation to lead with values and vision. Dr. Luhar isn't just innovating materials - she's reengineering how the world builds.

KIRSTY ROGERS



Championing Sustainability in Law and Business

Kirsty Rogers is the first Chief Sustainability Officer at global law firm DWF, where she leads ESG strategy and drives responsible business practices

across the firm's international network.

A practising employment lawyer, Kirsty started shaping DWF's sustainable agenda whilst leading the Manchester office as Managing Partner. An active member of the North West Business Leadership Team, she is known for shaping the regional sustainability agenda and contributing to economic growth.

Under her leadership, DWF earned top recognition in the Lamp House Strategy report for excellence in Governance, People, and Planet. Kirsty is also a key voice in the Legal Charter 1.5, advancing climate-focused action within the legal sector.

Her work includes education, accountability, and pro bono support for environmental causes. Balancing career, community, and family, Kirsty is a powerful role model, proving that leadership rooted in purpose can drive lasting change across industries.

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HERE COME THE GIRLS FINALISTS

Recognising those women or organisations challenging systems that don't work for women, promoting gender informed products, services or act as role models.

BANA GORA



Championing Muslim Women's Voices and Vision

Bana Gora is the pioneering Chief Executive of the Muslim Women's Council (MWC), which she founded in 2009 to empower women and create inclusive opportunities. With roots in domestic violence services, her career is built on trust, compassion, and relentless advocacy.

Bana leads initiatives including legal advice clinics, bereavement support, emotional helplines, and the annual Daughters of Eve Conference. During COVID-19, she ensured hot meals and vital services reached those in need.

Her bold vision for a Women-Led Mosque evolved into The Women's Building - a trailblazing community hub focused on education, wellbeing, and enterprise. She also launched a national think tank to train Muslim women in leadership and tackle pressing issues like Islamophobia and domestic abuse.

Respected across faiths, Bana's work has created ripple effects nationally and internationally. Her drive, integrity and impact suggest she's only getting started.

SALLY ORANGE MBE



A Force for Mental Health

Sally Orange MBE is a record-breaking endurance athlete and former Army physiotherapist who turns adversity into action. After battling depression and anxiety

during 22 years of military service, her medical retirement became a catalyst for change. Since then, she's completed over 85 marathons across every continent, including running 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days dressed as fruit to break stigma and spark conversations around mental health.

Her efforts have raised nearly £1 million for over 50 charities, earning her national honours and a place in One Hundred Reasons to Hope. Sally also led a Guinness World Record-breaking mental health education campaign for 75,000 UK Army Cadets. From Everest to everyday lives, her impact is personal and profound. With humour, courage, and relentless energy, Sally is reshaping how we talk about mental health - one costume, one challenge, and one conversation at a time.

KATE VALENTINE



Founder of Singing Mamas and Accidental Changemaker

Kate Valentine calls herself an “accidental changemaker” - but her impact is anything but accidental. From growing up in a London tower block, facing

homelessness at 15, and raising four children alone, she’s transformed her lived experience into a global wellbeing movement: Singing Mamas.

What began in her living room as a mother and baby-friendly singing group is now a UK-wide initiative helping thousands of women improve their mental health through the power of song. Inspired during a nightshift as an A&E nurse, Kate witnessed firsthand how singing soothed both mothers and babies.

Selling her car to fund the first website, she built Singing Mamas into a not-for-profit supported by a diverse community of healthcare workers and artists. Backed by evidence that singing reduces postnatal depression, Kate is redefining women’s health - one note at a time.

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Claire-Marie Boggiano on the WLiB table

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ENTREPRENEUR FINALISTS

Recognising women who take that leap of faith and develop businesses which benefit the economy.

PAMELA EVANS



The Digger Lady Breaking Ground and Barriers

At 16, Pamela Evans became the first female and youngest person to earn a 360° tracked excavator licence. Despite teachers discouraging her

passion, she pursued weekend digging jobs with her dad.

In 2016, battling postnatal depression, debt, and supporting her husband through serious health issues, Pamela hit rock bottom. "The only time I felt good was when I was digging," she recalls.

With just £150, she hired a digger and five gallons of diesel - completing a job that launched The Digger Lady business. Her journey from food bank reliance to building a thriving excavation company is one of grit and resilience.

Now, Pamela champions women in construction, visiting schools and supporting charities to inspire future "digger ladies." Her story proves that passion, persistence, and a little diesel can fuel extraordinary success.

GEORGIA KIRKE



Empowering Voices Through Publishing and Tech

Georgia Kirke is a trailblazing entrepreneur reshaping the publishing and tech industries. In 2016, she launched Write Business Results to help entrepreneurs turn their

ideas into bestselling, revenue-generating books. Despite a life-changing injury and a global pandemic, Georgia grew WBR and inspired over 40 clients to share their stories.

In 2024, she expanded her vision with Cliobooks.ai, an AI-powered platform that helps non-fiction authors write books through guided voice or text, preserving their unique voice while simplifying the process. With 200+ users already onboard and a recent “Disruptive Technology of the Year” award, Georgia is making publishing more inclusive and scalable.

A passionate advocate for ethical AI and female leadership in tech, her mission goes beyond business - she's building tools that combat illiteracy and amplify unheard voices. Georgia Kirke is redefining what's possible for modern authors and female tech founders alike.



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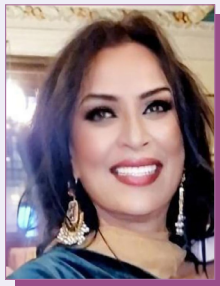
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COMMUNITY FINALISTS

Recognising women whose contributions to society make a substantial difference to the lives of others.

NADIA ALI



**Championing
Community,
Connection & Change**

Nadia Ali is a powerful force for grassroots change in Stockport. As CEO of Make a Difference, Manager of Heaton Norris Community Centre (HNCC), and Network

Lead for Stockport Women & Girls (SWAG), she empowers women, girls, and marginalised groups through inclusive, community-led initiatives.

Born into hardship and breaking free from a restrictive upbringing at 17, Nadia's lived experience fuels her mission to uplift others. Under her leadership, HNCC has grown from 3 to 23 weekly sessions, supporting everyone from refugees to people with disabilities. Through Make a Difference, she builds bridges across communities with events, support services, and cultural programmes.

A proud mother and award-winning campaigner, Nadia also represents Stockport with GM4Women, shaping policy and safe spaces for future generations. Her work is defined by compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment to inclusion and empowerment.

SHAR SANGSTER



**Founder of
Manchester's
Got Talent Youth
(MGTY)**

Shar Sangster launched MGTY during the 2020 lockdown, transforming online talent shows into a lifeline for young people. Co-run with

her son Zeria, MGTY offered a joyful and inspiring space when many youth services were closed. A qualified youth and community worker, Shar combines creativity with purpose - supporting young people through mentoring, skill-building, and employment pathways.

Beyond MGTY, Shar builds bridges between communities and authorities through roles on Greater Manchester's Independent Advisory Group, Community Scrutiny Panel, and Racial Equality Panel. Her grassroots efforts include feeding the homeless and providing essential gifts during winter - all from her own resources.

Shar's work reflects resilience, empathy, and unwavering commitment to young people and social justice. With her son beside her, she continues to be a powerful force for change and a role model in her community.

KAREN WALLIS



From Surviving to Leading Change

Once trapped in a cycle of domestic abuse, addiction, prison and homelessness, Karen Wallis has turned unimaginable hardship into a life of purpose.

After years of trauma, including time spent sleeping in a public toilet for safety, she found refuge and hope with Emmaus Preston. There, she rebuilt her life - first as a Companion, then as a Support Worker, and now as Head of Support and Deputy CEO.

Her journey has not only reunited her with her children but also empowered her to help over 200 people transition from homelessness to independence. Karen now speaks nationally, including at Downing Street and universities, advocating for change. Her lived experience, resilience, and compassion make her a powerful voice for the voiceless - and a testament to how recovery is possible with the right support and belief.

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“ As a founder CEO, it's easy to get lost in the daily demands of running a business, but Jacqueline has been a game-changer for me. She consistently encourages me to pause, think critically, and approach challenges with a fresh perspective, which has had a tremendous impact on the health of our business. I truly believe she “has my back” in ways no one else in the organisation does.

Jacqueline challenges me in such a positive, constructive manner, pushing me into a space of critical thinking I never made time for before. Her honest, straightforward approach has helped me to stop second-guessing myself, grounding me in my decisions. She is also fantastic company and a real spark in our discussions, driving meaningful conversations and ideas.

What's more, she has instilled a sense of ownership and passion within the team, encouraging them to take more responsibility for their roles and fostering a culture of accountability. The positive impact she's had on the business is undeniable – our staff are more engaged, accountable and achieving greater revenues.

Looking back, I wish I had brought Jacqueline on board years ago. She's made all the difference.”

Chris Greenhalgh | Founder CEO, I Love Manchester

“ Unlike many consultants Jacqueline is practical, thoughtful, experienced and straight talking. She will only undertake projects for which she can deliver a successful outcome – so if you feel you could work with her, you can.”

Mike Cribb | Chair, Quantiv