

Graham Abdullah Dinn Personal Statement: Application For Co-Option To Leighton-Linslade Town Council

I am mixed race, my father was Punjabi Indian and mother from Derbyshire, England. I was born and raised in Rochdale, Lancashire, left school at the age of 14 and completed a 7 year engineering apprenticeship. However, I had always really wanted to work with people. I had grown up seeing my father, as an Asian Elder, working and helping people in the Asian community and had admired that. To this end I started to study with the OU and took a job as a carer.

In 1988 I left Rochdale in Lancashire and moved to my current address in Linslade with my wife.

I spent my career in the Social Care Sector employed by Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils. I have experience working with adults and children and in the training sector. Following early retirement in 2009 I became a self employed consultant in learning and development, taking on a number of short term contracts with Universities and local authorities.

During much of this period I continued my studies, and now hold the following qualifications: Diploma In Social Work and Practice Teaching Award, BA in Social Science and a Masters Degree in Advanced Interprofessional Social Practice. I am also a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

I retired from paid employment in 2017 but was keen to get involved in voluntary work. I was the Chair of the Trustee Board for Leighton-Linslade Citizens Advice Bureau (2015-2017). I am currently a volunteer tour guide for schools and colleges at Bletchley Park. During the Covid 19 crisis I have volunteered as an NHS responder.

I have experience in presenting information and in working collaboratively and constructively with others. I believe that this and my own willingness to learn, will be relevant to the role of volunteer town councillor.