

# IMPOWER

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11 October 2022

## **IMPOWER welcomes Mark Owers as Professional Advisor**

IMPOWER has today announced that Mark Owers has joined its team as a Professional Advisor to strengthen and enhance its work in improving and transforming the delivery of public services for children.

Mark will advise IMPOWER and its local authority partners, working directly with members, senior leaders and frontline staff in local authorities to better understand need and ensure children and young people get the right services, at the right time, at the right cost.

Mark has spent over 30 years working in children's social care, as a registered social worker, lecturer, researcher, consultant, CEO, Director and Government Adviser. His experience spans local and central government, the private sector and the voluntary sector, giving him a unique insight into how children's services operate, and how the care system works as a whole.

Mark is a long-standing and respected Government Adviser on fostering and adoption and the regionalising adoption programme, and continues in his role as the Independent Chair of the National Adoption Recruitment Steering Group. Most recently, he spent nearly three years as the Director of Safeguarding and Care, and Chief Social Worker in Jersey.

IMPOWER's tools, insights and metrics provide leaders with the evidence and confidence to define and drive value and fairness in the care system. With a sharp focus on making a difference for children and young people, IMPOWER helps local areas to meet their needs whilst also improving their opportunities and life chances.

### **Mark Owers, Professional Advisor to IMPOWER, said:**

"I am delighted to have been appointed as a Professional Advisor for IMPOWER.

IMPOWER's driving values of delivering better outcomes and life chances for children and young people are closely aligned with mine, and I look forward to again working with the team to deliver lasting positive impact for children across the country.

As an advisor to IMPOWER, I will be focusing on helping the children's sector to secure greater value from local authorities and market resources and provision. By driving more needs-based public service delivery and encouraging more relational commissioning, founded on trust and openness. I believe we can demonstrably improve outcomes for children, young people and their families, at a time of increasing demand, staff shortages, and less funding."

### **Sean Hanson, Chief Executive of IMPOWER said:**

"We are delighted to have Mark on board, and he brings a wealth of experience to our team. I know he will enable us to do even more to help councils improve the life chances of children by strengthening the links between children's needs, the outcomes being pursued, and the resources available.

The sector is incredibly innovative and ambitious, particularly at a time where resources and funding are a key challenge. That's why IMPOWER ensures that spending goes to where it matters most to achieve better outcomes for children and young people while delivering sustainable cost reductions in the longer term.

"As a country we simply need to do more for our children. Delivering better outcomes and life chances for children and young people is a key driver for IMPOWER which is

why we are focused on ensuring we have the best possible team to deliver positive impact.”

## **About IMPOWER**

IMPOWER delivers better outcomes that cost less.

IMPOWER aims to put humanity at the heart of public service reform. By enabling public service leaders to grip the challenges of complexity, they supercharge their ability to improve lives and save money. IMPOWER helps public service leaders produce lasting, positive change in complex systems - the key to long-term financial sustainability.

EDGEWORK® is IMPOWER'S unique transformational approach, enabling organisations to make the required mindset shift – towards a focus on outcomes and working across organisational and system boundaries – and provides the tools that make this easier.

IMPOWER'S passionate teams and decades of delivery experience equip it to tackle high stakes, complex challenges for local authorities through a mix of applied analytics, behavioural science, and primed performance.

IMPOWER operates in the following areas: Whole Council Transformation, Adult Social Care, High Needs and SEND, Climate Change, Children's Social Care, Health and Social Care Interface, Housing and Homelessness.

### **Mark Owers full biography:**

- Mark has spent over 30 years working in children's social care, as a registered social worker, lecturer, researcher, consultant, CEO, Director and Government Adviser. He has worked in local and central government, the private sector and the voluntary sector. All of these roles give Mark a unique insight into how children's services operate, and how the care system works as a whole.
- Mark is a long-standing and respected Government Adviser on fostering and adoption. He is the Independent Chair of the National Adoption Recruitment Steering Group. He was a founding member of the National Stability Forum, and the Government's adviser on the regionalising adoption programme.
- He was appointed by the Secretary of State for Education to review foster care in England together with Sir Martin Narey. Their report was published in February 2018 and Government published the response in July 2018. He was the architect, a founding member and the first manager of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board.
- Previously, Mark led on child safety and child health for the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and he represented the Prime Minister on the National Child Safeguarding Board, and the National Child Health and Wellbeing Board. At the NSPCC he led on child protection in the digital age. His doctoral research was on the impact of fatal child abuse on local authorities. Mark has published research on serious case reviews.
- Most recently, Mark spent nearly three years as the Director of Safeguarding and Care and Chief Social Worker for the Government of Jersey.
- Mark is a registered social worker.

### **Media enquiries:**

Our public services experts PLMR, are available for comment, interviews and information. Please contact: PLMR 0800 058 4219 [impower@plmr.co.uk](mailto:impower@plmr.co.uk)