

## **EXTENDED SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **Hearing 7**

**Wednesday 16 June 2010**

**Sally Staples, Head of Unit, Arts Development Unit, Kent County Council**

#### **Biography**

Sally Staples joined Kent County Council in Autumn 2007. Since her arrival Sally has reorganised the Kent Arts Development Unit, shifting it from an operational to a strategic role and reducing overheads in order to increase investment in the Creative Sector itself.

In its first full year of operation the new Arts Unit achieved many successes, including leveraging £6million into the County and delivering the first Kent-wide Youth Theatre Festival, which is now set to be an annual event. Sally is responsible for the development of “Unlocking Kent’s Cultural Potential, A Cultural Strategy for Kent” (one of the key delivery strategies for Unlocking Kent’s Potential), and is lead officer for Kent Agreement’s National Indicator 11, which measures adult participation in the arts.

Sally also is the officer responsible for the funding relationship between Kent County Council and the newly independent Turner Contemporary Trust. She chairs the Arts Sectoral Task Group for the Kent 2012 Campaign, has recently accepted a position on the Board of Kent Music, and is on the Board of Shepway “Find Your Talent”.

Sally’s involvement in the arts has ranged from practitioner, facilitator and writer to venue manager and performer. Before arriving at KCC Sally worked for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, where her achievements included launching the Tunbridge Wells Mela and coordinating town-wide celebrations such as the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Tunbridge Wells.

Sally’s family roots are in Kent; her childhood holidays meant camping in her uncle’s orchards in West Kent and riding with her cousins on the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway. She is passionate about the County and its potential, and is privileged to have spent her working life witnessing the arts transforming peoples’ lives for the better.