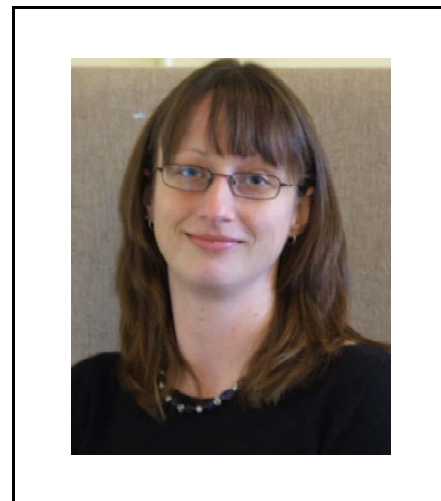


## Steering Group Member Profile

Name: Karen Stretton

Group/  
Organisation: Choices and Rights Disability Coalition  
(if applicable)



### Personal Statement

I believe I have the skills and knowledge to effectively carry out the work of Hull LINK. I have always been interested in health and social care and am passionate about these services being accessible to ALL members of society. At university I studied health and social policy. This gave me the background understanding of how the welfare state and the NHS has developed in the UK. In a professional capacity I have worked for Hull Social Services in roles varying from Home Care Assistant to managing a residential care home. This has been with various user groups including older people and people with learning and physical disabilities. I have also worked for Humberside Probation Service with offenders. I have been involved in empowering individuals to voice their opinions or where this has not been possible to advocate on their behalf, for all my working life. During this time I have gained a lot of knowledge about the issues facing local people in the area of health and social care. Since becoming disabled myself, I have first hand experience of the challenges and frustrations as well as the positive aspects of the services being provided in Hull.

In a voluntary capacity I have run a youth group for people with and without physical disabilities. This involved organising weekly activities, holidays and fundraising. At present I am volunteering for Choices and Rights Disability Coalition and am involved in attending meetings, writing reports, answering enquiries from the public and working on discrimination issues.

I would love the opportunity to be a member of the Hull LINK steering group and put all my knowledge and experience into use, and help develop better health and social care services in this area. I have already been involved in the interim steering group and would like to continue what I have already been involved in.

## Declaration of Interests

**PAID INTERESTS** Includes employment, self employment and paid work as a director or governor

Organisation/Business	Nature of Interest

**VOLUNTARY/UNPAID INTERESTS** Includes voluntary activity and work as an unpaid trustee

Organisation/Business	Nature of Interest
Choices and Rights Disability Coalition	Trustee
Dukeries Area Residents Association (DARA)	Volunteer

**OTHERS** Please indicate any other interests you may feel relevant to disclose

Organisation/Business	Nature of Interest