

Deputy Mayor

Councillor Karina Carter

Municipal Year 2025/26

The Deputy Mayor's Consort during her deputy mayoral year is Councillor Ged Carter.

Karina has served as a Councillor in Trafford for 16 years, originally being elected in 2004. Unusually, over this time, she has represented three wards - Stretford, Bucklow St. Martins and now Davyhulme.

Karina has served on countless committees and in multiple roles at Trafford Council, including Opposition Spokesperson for Education, Vice Chair of Children's Scrutiny, Chairing the Corporate Parenting Board and in her current role as Executive Member for Babies, Children and Young People since 2023. Before this she was the Lead Member for Education.

Karina has considerable passion and expertise around children's services. She has been a governor at several schools, including Chair at Stretford High for over a decade, and as a National Leader of Governance she has helped numerous schools to progress in their improvement journeys.

Her governance career started at St Michael's Primary in Flixton back in 1990, where her daughters all attended, and she created the school's first After School Club in a voluntary role to improve the offer there. She has chaired two Academy Trusts in Manchester and Bolton, and she continues to believe that education is the best way to achieve equality of opportunity for children and young people.

Karina also understands that not all children get the best start in life, and her passion is for those children who are vulnerable or whose life chances are reduced due to their family circumstances. She takes her role as a Corporate Parent very seriously and enjoys the work she does with the Trafford Board, as well as the work she contributes to on the Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership.

Karina is an incomer to Trafford. She grew up in (and retains a lifelong love affair with) Whitley Bay in her beloved North East. At 18 she came to Manchester to study Ancient History & Archaeology with Latin. Here she gained a degree and met her husband in Freshers Week – married the week after Graduation! At 21 she and Ged moved into Urmston and Karina took a postgraduate course in Salford.

Shortly after Salford, Karina started her family, being blessed with three daughters, all of whom have now fled the nest to progress in their careers and families of their own. Family is hugely important to Karina, and she and Ged also spend a lot of time as active grandparents for their four gorgeous grandchildren.

Family gatherings are as frequent as busy lives allow, and Karina's family Sunday Lunches and Christmases are legendary. She lives by the mottos of "never knowingly under-catered" and "never, ever under-decorated." She adores cooking, baking and gardening and is happiest with a house full of guests.

In 2023, Karina retired from her professional career at Manchester Council. This had seen many highlights, including working with some of Manchester's most at-risk families, and the last seven years were spent commissioning services for people impacted by domestic violence.

Her career started at Ashburne Hall, an all-female Hall of Residence as part of the University of Manchester before she joined Loreto College and then moving to Manchester Council in 2002. She has hosted major Centenary events for Ashburne and Loreto and organised many events and conferences.

Karina's passions extend to many fields beyond politics and family. She travels whenever she can, with a new-found penchant for cruises after surviving a gruelling 2-month camping trip around Europe in 2023. She is an avid reader, loving her neighbourhood Book Club, and a prolific crafter. Her huge, crocheted blankets are legendary. She adores the opportunities that are available nearby for theatre and live music.

Karina also maintains and invests in many friendships. She still holidays every year with three friends from Primary School, now with all their extended families and she loves her monthly dinner out with women she first met at the school-gate at St. Michaels 35 years ago. Friends from University days and the early years bringing up children as a young Mum are still a big part of Karina's life too.

Karina is hoping to use the Mayoralty to promote Trafford, connect with communities and highlight the work of women, children and young people.