

## **Dr Paul Mitchell, PhD Medicine (Community Based Medicine) 2009**

I have lived in Manchester for over 30 years and worked primarily with young people in mental health and social care settings. I have had strong links with the university over the last 14 years; I worked on two community-based research projects for the university prior to undertaking my doctoral research at the university. I was awarded my PhD in 2009 and have held an honorary contract since then, but I have never held office at the university. I continue to work in mental health and social care with young people as a practitioner and also at strategic/policy level, and try to maintain strong links between the university and community to ensure that service developments are informed by research findings and that service users are involved in research projects. At my graduation ceremony reference was made to the gap in expectations/aspirations between the people attending the ceremony and those in the local community, and those words resonated strongly with me. I am actively involved in my local community group (within two miles of the university), and would strive to strengthen links between the university and community if elected to the General Assembly.