

thoughtengine

CSWP Strategy Development

Personal stories of selected team members

NOTE: We used personal stories in our hothouse process to relate better to each other as a team and also to identify with the needs of the sub-region.

Person A

I grew up in the area and stayed until I was 20. In 1991, the general mortgage situation fell down and I left. I went to university in Southampton. I found work for media companies but was made redundant twice. I moved back to the area because my network - friends and family - are here. It is the siren calls that bring you back; that and work and a support network. I discovered that 'finding things out' is what I do and my work suits this need.

Person B

I completed a Masters at Newcastle and moved to Birmingham to work. After seven years or so, I wanted a change, which led to a secondment and eventually a different job altogether. I am not planning on moving. My family are from Oxford which is only an hours drive away. I like the Midlands. It has great countryside and I never wanted to live in London anyway. They say that people in the midlands are down on themselves, but I like this self-effacing humour.

Is the Midlands less aspirational - or just less rabid and selfish - than London? Either way, I like it here. I feel quite proud of it. I love the neighbourly atmosphere.

Person C

Born in Zimbabwe with a BA (Hons) in English, I taught in schools and have been an Education Officer. After working with the Zimbabwe Human Right Association, I completed his Master in Public Administration. I am currently pursuing a PhD in sustainable regeneration. I like the strong 'local community' feel of life in Zimbabwe. For example our concept of 'uncle' and 'niece' are foreign to me. I treat my brother's children as my own. It would be an insult to ring in advance of a visit to my brother's house. You simply do not need to ask.

Person D

Born in Nuneaton, I moved to Liverpool and completed a degree in geography and environmental studies. After, I stayed in Liverpool. Several things then happened at once. A

relationship split up, funding for a work project was withdrawn and I lost my lease. I moved back to the area, living in Warwick. After 2 years, I moved back to Nuneaton. I am pleased that I can access friends in Wales and the North easily from there. I didn't have a grand plan, its just that family and friends and the ease with which she can access people in the N West and Wales, caused me to locate here.

Person E

I am Midlands, born and bred, and I always come back. I did a science degree at Leeds and followed this up with a Masters. I've not worked in science though. First, I worked in engineering - making miles of steel tubing and thinking that there must be more. I worked in financial services and commuted into Birmingham. I moved to Swindon to work in the NFP sector and worked in the Black Country too. Now I live in Royal Leamington Spa and my commute is about 15 minutes.

Person F

Born in Coventry, I moved to Preston and completed a degree in applied psychology. A relationship, family and friends brought me back. I thought that I would be interested in mental health and worked for about a year with severe schizophrenics. I moved into regeneration as I could still work with challenging people within better working conditions.