

Mr Ian Barkley (ref from Amanda Crossley (Care co-ordinator cluster North))

To whom it may concern:

I have known Ian in a working capacity for many years. I have always found him to be very approachable, very knowledgeable and always very professional. He explains things in a way that makes sense and has always been willing to share his knowledge. He has enabled me to be a much better practitioner and problem solver with regards to finance issues.

During the formative years, I did several joint visits with him to people under our care in the community and he always engaged well with them and explained things in a way in which they understood, they were often people who did not engage effectively, hence joint visits but he always put them at ease, offering constructive advice and providing a positive experience.

There has, over the years been many complex financial issues, that quite frankly have baffled me and other people involved but he has always found a way to resolve them. He is always very patient and has a good understanding of Adult Social Care and his experience from the finance side is in my opinion, is second to none. He has always been willing to show other colleagues how to complete work, when they are new to the team both in the finance department and in Adult Social Care and their feedback has always been very positive. All I ever hear, wherever I have worked in the Council and that has been in a lot of places, with a lot of different people, is when there is an issue with finance "contact Ian Barkely". Equally, he is well thought of by the providers, again due to his approachability and the fact that he gets things sorted.

Adult Social Care shared office space with the Finance Team for a short period of time and during that time I found him friendly, kind and considerate to those with whom he worked. I have found in my time working for the Council, that due to there being so many people there can be a lot of personality clashes, it is rare that most people agree on those that are a positive influence and do their job well, but Ian is one of those people. I feel and so do those I work alongside, that he is an absolute asset to the Local Authority.