

ZLP Biographies

Leadership team



Lucia Vambe - Founder and CEO of ZLP

Lucia was born in Zimbabwe and came to the United Kingdom over 30 years ago where she obtained professional qualifications in Mental Health Nursing as well as Education and Training. Currently, Lucia works for East London NHS Foundation Trust, UK as Corporate Matron for Education and Development and in her role, she also links with University of Bedfordshire where she supports student nurses learning and assessments. Previously, Lucia held different roles within Essex Partnership University NHS Trust, UK where she worked for 20 years with vast experience in mental health nursing, writing clinical policies, leading on Trust-wide implementation of clinical practice improvement programmes including delivery of mandatory clinical risk training and suicide prevention training. She also has experience in serious investigations and family liaison duties.

Lucia is a Trustee for Zimbabwe Diaspora Health Alliance, UK. She is also a co-founder and trustee of the Zimbabwe Midwives and Nurses Association UK.



Obi McKay – Deputy CEO of ZLP

Obi has been a Registered General Nurse (Level 1) for 40 years. Also, a BSc qualified Community Practice Specialist Teacher with twelve years School Nursing and Children’s Health Service experience with a Masters Qualification (MSc) in Public health practice.

From 2014 she worked as an Associate Director for mental health services with vast experience in bidding for funding and managing large projects, budgets, and services. Post retirement from January 2020 – February 2021 Obi supported a new child health Trust in South London as a Clinical Director to strategically develop their full governance agenda. Embedding national guidance to enable clinical effectiveness and safe practice.

Since 2022 on an ad hoc basis, she has supported funding applicants through CWB in an advisory capacity. She has also carried out stakeholder surveys with recommendations for CWB.



Muriel Gutu – Deputy CEO of ZLP

Muriel holds an MSc in Public health, BA, Graduate certificate in education, Higher diploma in Mental health, Nurse prescribing certificate and Leadership certificate. She started her career in the Zimbabwe ministry of education and has been working as a nurse in the UK for over 20 years.

In her nursing career she specialised in mental health and substance misuse, and has worked in various NHS Trusts and voluntary organisations. Currently, she is the Group Clinical Lead for a Charitable organisation that works with people who have mental and substance misuse problems. She is also a Trustee for UK Hope World Wide, member and project lead for Zimbabwe Life Project charity.

Board members



Fiona Nolan – Chair of the Board of Trustees of ZLP

Fiona is Chair of the Zimbabwe Life Project CIO. She is Clinical Professor of Mental Health Nursing at Anglia Ruskin University in Essex, UK. She has a strong clinical background, combining senior roles in the NHS with an academic career in which she had led large scale national and international research programmes. She has experience of working in low income countries to improve standards in mental health care, most recently heading an EU funded project to introduce specialist nurse training in Mongolia.

She is chair of Mental Health Nurse Academics UK and a steering committee member of the National Mental Health Nurse Directors Forum. Fiona is visiting professor at the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences and La Trobe University, Melbourne. She speaks regularly at international conferences, has published widely and is an active mentor for healthcare leaders.



Kudzai Munyavi – Trustee, Chair of ZLP Finance Committee of ZLP

Kudzai is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Jibu, a consumer goods company with operations in East Africa serving essential products whilst working with local entrepreneurs. He has more than 15 years of experience spanning FMCG manufacturing and financial services; holding key roles in finance, strategy, fundraising and corporate finance. Kudzai is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Financial Analyst and holds a Masters in Leadership and Strategy from London Business School.



Linda Braddick – Communications Manager of ZLP

Linda is part owner and Managing Director of an advertising and communications agency, Grace Communications Ltd in the UK. Linda was born in Zimbabwe and holds a BA hons degree with majors in English, French and Journalism from Rhodes University in South Africa. She has worked in marketing and communications for over 20 years in both writing and strategic roles.



Neil Brimblecombe – Trustee, Chair of ZLP Oversight Committee of ZLP

Neil is Professor of Mental Health at London South Bank University. He has held executive roles as Director of Nursing, most recently in South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, where he was also a board member of Maudsley International charity. Neil has worked as Director of Mental Health Nursing at the Department of Health and 2018 was named as one of the top 70 nurse leaders in the history of the NHS.