

BIG QUESTIONS



MAJELLA MCCLOSKEY

Chief Executive
of CO3 (Chief
Officers 3rd
Sector)

What is your career background?

My professional career has always been in the Voluntary and Community sector. I led the fuel poverty charity NEA NI for 11 years before joining CO3 six years ago. Prior to that I worked in Gingerbread and Belfast Healthy Cities.

What was your first job and how much were you paid?

My first job was in a coffee shop in the centre of Belfast and as a 16 year old, I was paid just over £1 per hour.

Have you ever had a job you hated?

I have encountered some poor leadership, which has been challenging, but I have always loved the jobs I've had.

What was your first success?

I was appointed Director of NEA NI at the age of 28. It was a daunting experience to be asked to give leadership to those tackling fuel poverty, but I committed to working with elected representatives, fuel suppliers, officials and other organisations to see the issue become a political priority and it did.

What business figures do you most admire?

There are many outstanding leaders in Northern Ireland's third sector. Olwen Lyner has shifted thinking on tackling offending, John McMullan and Maurice Kinkead have demonstrated the massive economic contribution of social enterprise and Prof. Dame Judith Hill embodies huge commitment to palliative care and raising leadership standards in the third sector.

Have you ever made a mistake and if so what did you learn from it?

Yes, loads of mistakes, and they have taught me something very different each time!

What is the most valuable piece of advice you have ever been given?

An English teacher once told me to remember to have balance in my life. That's very important advice as I balance my job, my family, my friends and my interests.

What one item would you take with you to a desert island and why?

My children are really important to me so I might choose a photograph of them or something they have made or given to me. A notebook with pen would also be an option, so that I could write.

What has been your biggest financial extravagance?

In the past I have loved the time and experience of some long haul travel. These days, the most precious thing is having the time to spend with my family.

Do you have a business mantra?

I try to keep CO3 members in mind in everything we do – so it would be to 'walk in the shoes of our members'.

What items do you always carry with you?

I am never without my Blackberry and I always have a fairly distinctive notebook.

When will you retire?

I love working for the voluntary and community sector: I can't think of a time when I won't want to be working in it and so I want to keep being involved, as long as I'm able to make a valuable contribution.

In association
with



provincia
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

A professional service for professional people



Subject: Co3

Date: 24.01.12

Newspaper: News Letter

Page: 37