

Roma Iskander – professional highlights

Focusing on sustainable results

Roma is passionate about working in ways that make it possible for people to participate and produce sustainable results.

Working independently

Roma has worked at national level since the 1990s as Director of SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society), Project Manager for the King's Fund Research and Development Network, Chair of Maternity Alliance, and non-executive Director of Newham NHS Acute Hospital Trust. In 2005, Roma was commissioned by Lambeth PCT Public Health Department to develop and implement their Wellbeing Strategy. This 18-month project involved a partnership of the Local Authority, NHS and voluntary sector that engaged 750 people in the process and included developing projects on the ground. From 2016 she has been working with large groups in Kenya on [conservation and Infrastructure projects](#).

Working with other members of PublicServiceWorks

Roma, along with Marsaili Cameron and Sheila Marsh, were core members of the team commissioned to work with Lambeth partners (including Lambeth Borough Council and Lambeth Primary Care Trust) to evaluate the 2003-08 strategy for the promotion of mental health and wellbeing and to develop new direction for that work. The work involved research and interviewing; large stakeholder events using open space; and related development work to raise awareness of wellbeing across Lambeth partners. The engagement of senior partners in the local strategic partnership and the public, as well as staff and local organisations, led to development of the new strategy.

Project management

With her long experience of independent working, Roma is skilled at leading assignments and ensuring they are on time and to budget.

Working independently,

Roma developed and was project manager for, a national arts-based initiative to promote a positive image of people with Personality Disorders. After several years of her input, '*Personality Plus*' became a Social Enterprise run by service users that is still in place.

Working with other members of PublicServiceWorks

In 2011/12, PublicServiceWorks was commissioned by Marie Curie Cancer Care to work on a UK Department of Health funded programme to develop systems across agencies for the care of young adults with life-limiting conditions. The programme included a series of Open Space events and culminated in a one day event in 2012 for 250 people that included a world café session. As core members of the programme team, Roma, Sheila Marsh, Marsaili Cameron and Maria Duggan worked with partner agencies and young people to plan events and develop innovative publications and learning support material.

<https://www.publicserviceworks.com/resources-and-downloads>

Inspired facilitation for a range of groups and settings

Roma is a highly skilled and experienced facilitator of large and small groups.

Working independently

Recently she has worked with groups as diverse as homeworkers, hospice staff, academics and patients with long term conditions, and in diverse settings e.g. local *Maternity Voices*, voluntary organisations and statutory organisations. International work has included facilitating stakeholders in Nairobi National Park and staff, students and Masai community members in Kenya.

Working with other members of PublicServiceWorks

During 2016/17, together with Sheila Marsh and Maria Duggan, Roma was part of a team that developed future scenarios for children and young people in Lambeth. She jointly facilitated the stakeholder workshops to develop options for possible futures for children and young people in this London borough, see the [case study](#). Over three years, Roma also worked with Sheila Marsh and Marsaili Cameron to facilitate an arts and health learning network sponsored by Guy's and St Thomas' Charity.

Making public engagement happen

Roma is committed to the principles and practice of genuine co-productive working – which she brings to life through her work as an experienced Open Space practitioner and trainer.

Working independently

From 2016, Roma has been working with large groups in Kenya on conservation and Infrastructure projects.

Working with other members of PublicServiceWorks

Roma led on the engagement aspects of the Marie Curie Cancer Care project mentioned above. With Sheila Marsh, Roma also worked with a National Institute for Health Research project (CLAHRC) in Northwest London over 2 years to support/develop their approach to patient and public engagement across research and service development in health and to support co-production in practice.