



# NEWS

5 April 2017

## THE SILVER LINE BOLSTERS ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES WITH FIVE NEW APPOINTMENTS

The Silver Line Helpline announced the significant strengthening its Board of trustees with five new appointments as the charity enters its next phase of growth.

The charity runs the only free, national, confidential helpline open every day and night, offering information, friendship and advice to older people. The charity currently takes over 10,000 calls per week – and has received more than 1.3 million calls since its national launch in November 2013.

The five new trustees joining The Silver Line board are:

- **Ben Summerskill.** Ben is Director of the Criminal Justice Alliance, former Chief Executive of Stonewall, and was previously a senior Fleet Street journalist.
- **Jackie Gittins.** Jackie is owner of Coach Nudge, and has worked in leadership and advisory roles with PwC, Tesco, and Marks & Spencer.
- **Christian Dingwall.** Christian is a solicitor and partner of Hempsons, specialising in corporate work with the NHS and other health sectors.
- **Michael Josephson MBE.** Michael is the co-founder of Manchester-based business Stocks, and has also generated over £3million worth of funding for the NSPCC.
- **Lorraine Jackson.** Lorraine is Deputy Director, Data Sharing and Cyber Security at the Department of Health and has previously been responsible for dementia policy in England.

They will be joining current trustees: President and Founder of The Silver Line **Dame Esther Rantzen DBE**; Chair of Trustees, **Prof Patrick Geoghegan OBE**; **Jane Ashcroft CBE**; **Lady Susan Chinn CBE**; **Rt Hon Paul Burstow**; **Piers Ricketts**, and **Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin**.

Meanwhile **Gary Fitzgerald** is stepping down from the Board having served as one of the original trustees since June 2012.

Chairman of The Silver Line Board of Trustees, **Prof Patrick Geoghegan OBE**, said:

“I’m delighted to welcome Ben, Jackie, Christian, Michael and Lorraine to The Silver Line Board of trustees. Together they bring with them a wealth of diverse experience and expertise from across the private, public and voluntary sectors which complement the talents of the current Board.

“I would also like to thank Gary for his contribution as trustee since June 2012 and wish him well for the future.

“These appointments come at a pivotal time for The Silver Line as we move from the ‘start up’ stage and enter our next phase of development.

“In just over three years since we launched nationally, our helpline has taken over 1.3 million calls from older people and demand for our services keeps growing – particularly during the lonelier night time hours and weekends when other services are closed; this is an amazing achievement in such a short space of time but it has also brought its challenges.

“As we enter our fourth year, our immediate and short-medium priorities are focused on the consolidation of our existing services while securing the necessary funding to ensure our 24/7/365 presence is sustainable into the future.

“I am confident that our enlarged and multi-talented Board of trustees will help us capitalize on opportunities and achieve the potential of The Silver Line - and help us help the thousands of lonely and vulnerable older people who call us every week.”

### **Notes to Editors**

- Pictures and biographies of the trustees are available on request.
- Or contact The Silver Line press office: [Press.enquiries@thesilverline.org.uk](mailto:Press.enquiries@thesilverline.org.uk) Tel: 020 7224 2729

### **About the Silver Line**

- The Silver Line (0800 4 70 80 90) is the only free, national, confidential helpline open every day and night, offering information, friendship and advice to older people.
- As well as running the helpline, The Silver Line has 3,000 volunteers who make regular friendship calls, or exchange letters with older people.
- 68% of callers contact the helpline because they are lonely or isolated, 90% live alone, and 54% say they have no one else to speak to.
- Research by Anglia Ruskin University concluded that The Silver Line is successful in accessing the loneliest and most socially-isolated people.
- In 2016, The Silver Line secured funding made possible by players of People’s Postcode Lottery, which will help us answer 24/7 helpline calls. But more donations are needed to ensure every call for help is answered.
- The Silver Line website: [www.thesilverline.org.uk](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk)