

## **Steve Gentry – Co-Chair of Eastern Collaborative Children's Residential Network**



My journey in social care began at the age of 16 when I enrolled on a Residential Childcare college course. This foundation led me to complete a Social Work degree and then undertake various roles in Hertfordshire in both children's disability and mainstream settings.

In 2009, whilst managing The Lakes in Welwyn Garden City—a center dedicated to supporting Hertfordshire's most traumatized and challenging young people—I encountered the ARC model, a therapeutic intervention designed for trauma recovery. I was deeply convinced of its potential and travelled to the Boston Trauma Centre to negotiate its implementation in Hertfordshire.

It was successfully integrated it into our services, and the model has flourished, significantly impacting the lives of young people and their families. I am proud that all residential and outreach workers in Hertfordshire County Council are trained in the ARC model, and it is embraced by our partner services.

Now, as Head of Residential & ARC services, we continue to deliver innovative and exceptional work, with parts of the service consistently rated as Ofsted outstanding. I feel privileged to be in a position where I can think creatively and strategically to help shape the future of Children's Services.