

15 June 2010
PRESS RELEASE:

The Trustees are delighted to announce the appointment of Helen O'Brien as the Chief Executive of Caritas Social Action Network with effect from 1 July 2010.

Helen has been the Director of St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, the agency of the Diocese of Westminster responsible for the support of people with learning disabilities and their families for the past 5 years. She brings with her considerable skills and experience in strategic development and operations in both the charitable and voluntary sectors.

On being appointed Chief Executive of CSAN, Helen said:

"I am excited and energised by the work being done under the Caritas banner in the UK and impressed by the activity and powerful potential for even greater impact of Caritas in the world. The task of the Chief Executive as I understand it - to act as facilitator, link and advocate between CSAN members, the Bishops and social policy makers- is both great opportunity and responsibility.

The voluntary work on which I have been consistently engaged over the years, often as Chair of Trustees or Governors, has meant that I have engaged in public speaking, networking, promoting a cause or organisation and generally communicating as part of my habitual life as well as my work life. I hope to be able to bring these, and some of the skills and experience sketched above, to the service of the Caritas Network."

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Editors' Notes:

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is an official agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, is the umbrella organization for charities founded on Catholic social teaching delivering services to marginalized and vulnerable people in England and Wales. The range of services provided by member organisations within the Network include adoption, fostering, children and family support services, older people's services, support for vulnerable adults and homeless people, and community development.