

Mr Paul Saunders

BRAIN UK Committee Member

I have been involved in the work with Brain UK for the eleven years. My main occupation was serving for 25 years in Essex Police retiring in 2008 as a sergeant and since retiring, I felt that I had/have the desire to be involved in a mixture of activities but by far I was drawn to serving in two main areas of life, the first being involved in cancers services mainly due to my wife being diagnosed with non Hodkin's lymphoma back in 2002 which she received chemotherapy and has been able to continue to live a busy life (she also has received further treatment in 2019 and still very active in the community). I also had the pain of losing a good friend to a brain tumour when he was in his late twenties.

The second area I became a learning support assistant in adult education. Initially I ran a cancer support group and worked with people who were involved in research. I was approached by various people to work with Macmillan's as a facilitator, then as a member of the then National Cancer Intelligence Network but there was no opening in haematology so I was asked whether I would be interested in the central nervous system group, which I readily accepted. I believe it was about this time I joined Brain UK which seemed a natural progression. I very much enjoy reading the lay summaries with the invitation to make any comments.

Recently, I attended Birkbeck University and achieved a degree in mathematics, (graduating in 2022) which has enhanced my understanding of the work of Brain UK and other forms of research work (I am also involved with IQVIA and Use my Data). I do enjoy contributing in areas of research albeit in a small way.