



The Leadership Journey of Dal Babu OBE



Dalwardin Babu OBE

The Early Years

- One of 10 children.
- Mother from Pakistan and Father from India.
- Post partition settled in India.
- Muslim Families took on Hindu and Sikh names to avoid being attacked.
- Midlands was a poor area and we had challenges:
 - We were low caste
 - Muslim
 - Working Class
 - My parents did not speak English or read or write in any language.
- Left school at 16 worked in a Bakery
- Part time college 16 to 18
- Southampton College of Higher Ed (HND)

Metropolitan Police

- I joined the Metropolitan Police in July 1983 and was posted to Tottenham in London.
- I was the only Person of Colour in my intake at Hendon Police College.
- A tough place I could count on one hand the number of police officers who did not use the N or P word.
- You needed to be strong and resilient.
- I was the only police officer who volunteered on the Broadwater Farm Estate Team, all the other officers were pressed men and women.
- The riots in 1985 changed the face of police and public order .



Metropolitan Police – Key Moments

- PC Tottenham Operational Team and Broadwater Farm Estate.
- Superintendent Tower Hamlets
- Superintendent Public Order/ Gold Firearms Commander
- Chief Superintendent/ Borough Commander Harrow
- Acting Commander North East
- Set up the National Association of Muslim Police
- Member of Black Police Association Executive Committee
- Awarded OBE for services to policing and communities met the Queen who knew about my work with the Muslim Community and Police work



Since leaving the Police...

- Set up Tottenham University
- Trustee Médecins Sans Frontières
- Trustee Comedy School
- Trustee Artichoke
- Director Atigo School Academy
- Contribute to SKY News, BBC, ITV and GMB on crime and policing issues
- Non Executive Director NHS





Why I became a Non-Executive Director

" I had no NHS experience but wanted to give back to the NHS because my family owe them so much for amazing service and care they have given us.

As a police officer I had worked with NHS colleagues to help people in Mental Health crisis and I feel very fortunate to be a NED helping my community "


Tips for aspirant NHS NEDs

- Aspiring NEDs need to do their research on the NHS and the individual Trust they are seeking to join.
- Prepare and take the initiative to contact Chair and Chief Executive and show interest!
- Network with current NEDs and attend events by the Seacole Group – the network for BAME NEDS in the NHS



Lessons of Leadership





Dal Babu OBE
Chair, Seacole Group
www.seacolegroup.com