The Leadership Programme – Meet the Leaders Biographies



Karen Adegoke

Karen Joined Bradstocks in 1989 as an Account handler Responsible for all commercial classes of insurance including internal servicing and broking of client accounts, In 2003 Karen then moved to Aon Risk Solutions as an Account Handler and was Quickly promoted to Client Management Director team acting as the client's advocate and guide within Aon, ensuring products and services were identified and introduced to meet client's needs. Karen was responsible for building senior level relationships with clients and insurers, whilst supporting the sales team on new business opportunities. In 2013 Karen became Head of Office, developing the Manchester Corporate Branch of Aon with responsibility for 47 staff. As part of her role she managed revenues, and internal/external relationship at a senior level. In 2015 Karen moved to her current role as Corporate Director at Bollington Wilson Insurance, becoming responsible for leading, motivating and developing a team of 60 insurance professionals in the mid-market and Corporate arena, delivering bespoke solutions and exceptional service to clients. She sits on the Bollington Board helping to drive Group strategy and delivering growth.

David Gillan

David began his loss adjusting career at Thomas Howell Group (latterly Crawford and Company) in Manchester where he trained and qualified as a Chartered Loss Adjuster. In addition to developing his technical skills, which included establishing himself within the Major and Complex Loss team, David also held several management positions culminating in heading up the Leeds operation. David then joined GAB Robins in 2001 as an Area Operations Director and was quickly given the added responsibility of running the AXA account as Account Director. Following a restructure, he was awarded the role of UK Operations Director Service Delivery.

In 2006 David joined UK Underwriting Ltd (Primary Group) as Head of Claims broadening his experience within a 'virtual insurer' environment with hands on involvement in the larger technical losses. In 2008 David joined the McLarens UK Leadership Team to lead the company's expansion in Northern England. He is licensed as a Tier 1 adjuster within the Major Loss Division, allowing him to handle the largest and most complex claims. He also has responsibility for overseeing the Construction and Engineering Division. David has recently Been Appointed Operation Director for UK & Ireland.

Jon Hesketh

Jon started his insurance career in 2003 with an Assistant Casualty Underwriter role at AIG, and spent the next 6 years working through the ranks, eventually ending up as a Senior Business Development underwriter, responsible for managing a regional Panel of brokers across the North west of England.

In 2009 he moved to QBE (a specialist liability market) as an Underwriter, responsible for writing large & Complex liability risks with a variety of brokers both national and independent, the role also included a significant amount of client management. In 2016 the opportunity to Manage the QBE Manchester Liability team came up & Jon embraced it, having management responsibility for a team of 5 underwriters, and direct portfolio management responsibility for an £18m GWP book of business.

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At the beginning of this year Jon was appointed Regional Underwriting Manager (Engineering, Construction and Power) with responsibility for Technical Underwriting oversight of a wide portfolio of Traditional Engineering and Construction lines of business, along with an Engineering Inspection Account which is written across 6 offices in the Midlands, North of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Keith Stern

Keith originally practised as an accountant prior to joining Lloyd's 30 years ago this year. Following 10 years in Australia as Lloyd's Country Manager including the final 3 years as Regional Head of Asia Pacific, Keith returned to the UK in July 2010 to take up a new position as Lloyd's Regional Manager for the UK and Ireland. He supports the business development activities of Lloyd's Managing Agents and Brokers in London and promotes the Lloyd's brand in the UK regional market. He plays a key role in the appointment of new coverholders and the registration of new Lloyd's brokers. Keith is a director of both Lloyd's Ireland Representative Ltd and the MGAA (Managing General Agents' Association).

In August 2018 Keith was appointed as Senior Branch Manager for the UK Branch of Lloyd's Insurance Company SA, otherwise known as Lloyd's Brussels, which commenced trading on 1st January 2019.

Keith is an associate of the CII and ANZIIF (Australian & New Zealand Institute of Insurance & Finance)

Tracy Threlfall

Tracey's is currently with Aon, her role as Regional Managing Director is to enable the teams across the North Region to deliver the right solutions and level of service for our clients, across the full range of insurance products to keep their businesses running and protect their assets. She has 29 years' experience within the insurance sector and have spent the last 20 years building and leading successful teams to empower them to develop grow and bring the best of what we have to offer to our clients.

Tracey is enthusiastic and passionate about what she does, really enjoys building relationships with new and existing customers across a variety of industries, and continue to learn and develop as the industry evolves with new risks.