



# **ELECTED CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

**Chartered Society of Physiotherapy**  
Council Elections 2021

---

## Leanne Antoine



I am Leanne Antoine.

My late grandmother inspired me to become a Physiotherapist. She was an orthopaedic staff nurse here in the UK. I set out as a

Physiotherapy Assistant in 2001 and eventually qualified as a Chartered Physiotherapist in 2006. I followed this with an MSc in 2015 and I am now the proud owner of an independent clinic – a path of achievements that once seemed too great to achieve.

At the heart of me is a passionate Physiotherapist that believes in the work we do for our patients, but at times we have struggled to be acknowledged and recognised for the work that we do and the value we add to our society on so many levels.

Over the years I have been pioneering ideas that seek to improve how we deliver our work to the general public, with a clear focus on inspiring our younger generation within educational institutions. I am a CSP media spokesperson and I love public speaking. By default, I have become a positive role model for so many. In every public appearance, whether nationally or otherwise I am actively representing the profession and the governing body itself and the dynamics of what the career has to offer. I am of course also representing

myself – one of few black female physiotherapists within our profession.

Unfortunately (or fortunately), the pandemic and the Black Lives Matters (BLM) movement shone a bright light on the lack of diversity within our profession. We really need to understand and acknowledge the reasons for this, if we are to continue to build a working community that is equal, diverse, inclusive and reflective.

Should I secure a seat in council, I plan to work closely with other members of the CSP to guide them with speaking opportunities in educational establishments, particularly those institutions that have career development and workplace matters at the heart of their curriculum. I sincerely believe that in educating and inspiring young people we will start to build the foundations for long term, impactful change for our profession.

#leadwithleanne

**Gemma Scott**

Dear CSP Members,  
Are you well? It's been a challenging 18 months for Chartered Physiotherapists, Associates and students. Emotionally, physically, financially,

developmentally. Whether you work in the public or private sector or are striving to complete your studies, I see you. I entered the profession in 2008 as an Associate and qualified as a Physiotherapist in 2012. My experience of moving from support worker to Team Leader has given me vital insight and appreciation of the value of these roles and the range of people that fill them. This value is seen by patients, but must also be seen by commissioners, championed by our professional body and protected by the Trade Union.

If elected to Council, I pledge to work collaboratively with Council and CSP members to progress strategy for enhancing Workforce Supply and Development. We must diversify entrance opportunities, championing learning and development for all so that our profession truly reflects the populations we serve.

The Pandemic, while challenging our resolve, has given real opportunity for elevating our standing in both Medical and Therapeutic worlds; showcasing our expertise across the profession.

As a Council nominee, I commit to supporting members across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to achieve the pay and recognition they deserve. Previous experience as CSP Health and Safety Representative has allowed to me to support members by developing a sound grasp of policy, challenging management teams respectfully, whilst confidently holding them to account.

As a Specialist Physiotherapist in Occupational Health, I offer support to 14,000 staff. Considering the 'bigger picture' and thinking strategically, I have co-lead Trust wide projects in Wellbeing, co-produced nationally recognised resources for Shielding Healthcare Workers, participated in research aimed at managing Chronic Pain at work and joined a specialist multidisciplinary team treating workers with Long Covid. This demonstrates consideration of the changing needs of healthcare staff, taking Public Health priorities into account.

I would be grateful of the opportunity to apply this proactive, creative and innovative approach to the role of CSP Council member. It would be an honour to represent your interests.

Please vote for me,  
Gemma.

## Ishmael Beckford



It is essential that physiotherapy remains relevant, by maintaining its traditional values whilst embracing opportunities to modernise and evolve. Integral to this is collaboration and co-creation

with members.

I believe maximising diversity at all levels of our profession, to ensure we are representative of the population we serve is integral to our success. Therefore, my commitment if elected is to ensure equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of all the CSPs activities.

My personal and professional experience evidence my alignment with the role person specification.

I'm a Director at a large provider of NHS, private and corporate physical and mental health services and have a history of managing and leading award-winning teams. I am comfortable in board level environments and have the confidence to appropriately challenge, not confirming to the status quo.

I value listening, work well in a team and can communicate effectively to engage others. I believe these skills will be key in supporting, persuading, and motivating stakeholders in this post.

My clinical background is in musculoskeletal physiotherapy and

occupational health, but I am ready to champion all facets of progressive physiotherapy practice.

As a CSP Charitable Trust Education Awards Panel member, Kingston University Beyond Barriers mentor and active CSP BAME network member I am passionate about professional development and support. I also represent the CSP BAME network as a co-opted member of the CSP Council. This has given me great insight and experience in Council matters, preparing me to immediately contribute in full and make an impact.

Whether it be students at the start of their professional journey, highly experienced members, colleagues working in the NHS, private, charitable or research sectors - all make significant contributions to our profession whilst facing their own complex challenges.

Being able to represent and support this diverse group's needs is a privilege and an opportunity I would grasp with both hands.

I am committed to driving change with transparency and have an ambition to ensure the CSP does better for everyone.

I will be sharing more information to support my nomination on Twitter, please follow me @IshmaelBeckford

## Justine Croxton



Unprecedented events of the last year have profoundly reminded us that our profession is far more than a job; it is a vocation. Those of you who know me – or have worked alongside

me - will know I am not one for long deliberations, I believe in action and positive change.

Since Covid-19 began, there has been a growing understanding of how physiotherapy 'fits' into the UK's overall preventative healthcare and wellbeing strategy. Our roles have adapted to new ways of working and it is my intent to champion these innovations including diversifying our profession, so we are recognised as competent leaders of all healthcare professionals. Like most of you, I have honed my professional skills over decades. From a team leader, clinical specialist, to my present Governance Lead role for Defence Primary Healthcare and clinician in the independent sector.

Our profession as leaders is in demand like never before, as we rebuild and heal after the pandemic. Yet I know we can only bring our 'best selves' to work, if our members receive the best support and representation available. I believe I have the passion and capability to serve the members gaining experience as a National CSP Health and Safety Representative, with

a seat on Scottish Board. We need to actively listen to everyday concerns and especially to the next generation through our students.

I bring more than a strong resume. I am standing because I have a strong track record of advocating for my peers, am passionate about skills transference and a staunch advocate of lifelong learning. I can communicate clearly and fearlessly; be relentless and resilient and I appreciate the nuances of devolved governments and importance of strategic direction.

Our association – the CSP – is for the purpose of action, not words and I would be honoured to serve the members and ensure the profession is enduring and inclusive, seeking out opportunities for organisational growth.

Most importantly, I believe in team diversity and broad representation. For there is one thing I know. Not only are we better together; we can do far more together.

## Alexandra Spearritt



I'm Alex and I'm a Deputy Clinical Business Manager and Workforce Lead for Therapies at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, where I've worked since 2012. I'm a

mum, an active trade unionist and a football fan. I've a broad and extensive wealth of experience in the world of Physiotherapy from working in the private and NHS sectors across both paediatric and adult services, in Trusts across the country including Chelsea & Westminster and Alder Hey. This experience has been both hands on as a clinician and eventually in more senior leadership positions, including the Clinical Lead for Major Trauma & Orthopaedics role for 5 years. After this, I took up my current non-clinical role in March 2020. I also deputy-chair a work stream for the Cheshire and Merseyside AHP Faculty, supporting the education and development of students and rotational staff.

Growing up in a diverse and trade unionist family, once qualified I was keen to take up roles including Health and Safety Rep, workplace steward and latterly regional steward until March 2020. I'm a regular attender at ARC, attend local and national rallies and enjoy engaging with members on social media. I've represented members and our profession throughout my career often

when members were at their most vulnerable but also at national levels.

I'm passionate about equality, diversity and inclusion, and management and leadership development. In my current role, along with recruitment, apprenticeship engagement and student placement co-ordination, I work with Trust EDI leads engaging local communities, schools and colleges to empower children and teenagers to enter the profession.

In summary I hope I've demonstrated my commitment to our profession both clinically and personally. I'll always go the extra mile and if elected to CSP council, I would champion EDI issues that impact underrepresented groups of the membership. I would challenge traditional senior leadership roles to enable Physiotherapists to apply, with my strategy being to make a difference to members, patient's and our profession by empowering and engaging with our diverse membership, strengthening our collective voice.

## Reshma Patel



I currently work as a Clinical Lead & Professional Head of Physiotherapy at an Acute London NHS Trust and I am completing an MBA to allow me to further develop my skills to be the most effective leader that

I can be.

I have spent the last 12 years working clinically in Neuromusculoskeletal physiotherapy in both the private sector as a business owner and the public sector. I can offer views from both perspectives, supporting the voice of physiotherapy business owners as well as those working in the NHS.

As well as professionally I am also passionate about the experience of students, completing my fourth degree I fully understand the struggles that students face and are currently facing for example the lack of opportunities for placements. I am also passionate about sustainability and how we can create a sustainable future together!

The CSP are in comparison to other professional bodies ahead of the game and they are beginning to create opportunities and in particular those from a diverse background be it LGBT, BAME and those with disabilities, however there is still a long way to go. There's a lot of work to do right from the qualifying stage to embed these changes. I believe that I am the right

person for this role to be able to drive these changes and challenges forward. We need to work in a collaborative way with the networks as well as other professional bodies to come together as we do in our professional lives.

A few years ago, the thought of becoming a council member would never have crossed my mind, however I feel that I am at the right stage in my career to drive the important work that the CSP does. If elected, the skills that I have developed both in my leadership roles and throughout my MBA will allow me to negotiate and influence strategic decisions to drive change in a positive way and be part of shaping the future of our profession.

I can be the voice of students, commercial and public sector members, diversity and sustainability.