

Raheel Mapura**Worker**

Born in Preston but moved to London aged one. Started working at St Pancras Library in 1994 as a Saturday job - trained to be a solicitor but didn't like it so kept working until put on a management course for BAME workers. Developed a fondness for working with the public - enjoyed working with different parts of the community, lots of creativity possible in setting up projects - summer reading, goes to schools, community centres, black history month, home library service for housebound. Has worked in all libraries as a manager. Love Swiss - the building, the spaces - was manager from 2012-18. It's very seasonal - exam time, plus a rhythm to the days, when different people come in. Ask about the role of the library now and the future.

Challenges - team halved from 25 to 12. Before 2010 40 people had worked there. Needs of the community have changed.