



WALES AUDIT OFFICE  
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

## **KEVIN THOMAS BIOGRAPHY**

### **Managing Partner, Wales Audit Office**

Kevin Thomas was born in Bramhall near Manchester. Kevin attended Eirias High School in Colwyn Bay before going on to study at the University College of Wales in Aberystwyth. On Graduation in 1988 with a degree in Pure Mathematics and Accountancy, Kevin worked as a trainee accountant for Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council for two years before moving to Clwyd County Council. While there Kevin completed his CIPFA training becoming the only student in the Council's history to pass CIPFA first time.



Kevin joined the Audit Commission in Wales as an Assistant Manager in 1992, with a portfolio that included financial audit work at county and district councils and performance work on reviews such as Local Agenda 21 before gaining promotion to Principal Auditor in 1996. Kevin spent the next four years gaining experience as a team leader for a large unitary authority before a further promotion to Audit Manager in 2000.

As Audit Manager he managed the audit of best value at three unitary authorities, a police authority and a national park authority. Kevin's portfolio expanded in 2001 to include two NHS trusts and one unitary authority, and from 2003 he managed three NHS Trust audits. Kevin also acted as North Wales Resource Manager either side of the formation of the Wales Audit Office in 2005, before becoming a Partner in 2006.

As Partner, Kevin was responsible for the audit of a Unitary Authority, three NHS trusts, a local health board, and Estyn. He was also heavily involved with the WAO's Good Practice Exchange project, working on topics such as 'Making the connections' and 'Asset Management'. Kevin is also a member of the CIPFA CPD scheme, and has been since its inception.

Kevin was promoted to Managing Partner Planning and Resources in 2009. A member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Change Programme Board, his role involves overseeing the implementation of the WAO's ambitious Change Programme, as well as running the organisation's enabling functions. He also leads on the production of the WAO's Annual Report and Picture of Public Services Report.

Married with two children, Kevin lives in Penrhyn Bay. A keep fit enthusiast, Kevin has completed a number of 10k races and half marathons. Kevin's most satisfying achievement was completing the 2006 London Marathon in under 3 and a half hours. But, now spends most of his time exercising, either cycling or in the gym.

A keen film buff, Kevin is also an avid collector of music, and goes to see live music as often as he can, and in particular, Indigo Girls.