

Corporation Member Profiles 2019-2020



Karen Baxter - Staff Member

I have worked at North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College for over twenty years as a youth worker and currently as a lecturer in Work with Communities and Young People. As well as being a lecturer I am also involved with the Colleges' Mental Health Strategy.

I have a wide range of skills within youth and community work such as project planning and implementation, mental health and well-being and working in a variety of settings regarding Issue Based work.

For the last 3 years I have been involved with research regarding students in Higher Education.



Chris Brewer - Deputy Chair of the Resource Committee

I was Deputy Chief Executive of a local authority and am a qualified accountant. As the Council's Chief Financial Officer I also had the responsibility for the oversight of a number of other departments including housing, leisure, street scene, HR and IT. The whole of my career has been in local government. I bring both strategic management and strategic financial management experience together with an understanding of the public sector to the Corporation.

I live in Hinckley and in my spare time am a keen table tennis player.



Paul Cashian - Chair of the Students, Learning and Quality Committee

I am the Associate Dean (Student Experience) for the Faculty of Business and Law at Coventry University. I have worked in Higher Education for over 25 years and prior to this spent 6 years as a lecturer in FE.

I have a wide ranging experience of HE covering curriculum design, quality assurance, academic management and working with collaborative partners. I have a doctorate in Education, and my current research centres on issues of employability and practice-based management. I am also a Principal Fellow of Higher Education Academy. I was appointed to the North Warwickshire and Hinckley College Corporation in September 2010. I am a former Vice Chair of the Corporation and currently chair the Students Learning and Quality Committee and am a member of the People, Strategy and Governance Committee.



Karen Chouhan - Deputy Chair of the Students, Learning and Quality Committee

Karen has lived in Leicester since 1975 and worked for South Leicestershire College teaching ESOL, English and Functional Skills from 2012 until 2014.

She is currently employed as the Lead Equalities officer for the National Education Union, with a specialism in Race Equality. She was previously a Senior Education Manager for the Workers Educational Association (WEA), a national charity providing adult education including for the poorest and most disadvantaged people.

She has worked in FE as an English and ESOL teacher and in FE for De Montfort University for 12 years as the programme lead for the MA in Community Education and Youth Work.

She has also worked as a CEO for a national race equality charity and won several awards for her anti-racist work and tackling Islamophobia. In 2005, she was named by Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust as a "Visionary for a Just and Peaceful World". They funded her work on Equanmoics (Equality via Economic Justice) for 5 years.



Martin Cooke

After taking early retirement in 2016 from my position as Group Director for Grainger Cromwell in 2016. I decided to form my own consultancy company to advise and support businesses on arrange of topics including Global Compliance, Real Estate and Facilities Management, Health and Safety, Quality and Environmental policy and Security.

These reflected the topics I had gained significant experience in over many years working in the UK and across the world in such markets as sub Saharan Africa , the Far East and Europe.

I am also an active member of the Parish Council as well as an audit member of the Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils.

I have been an active member of the County Indoor Bowling Association in Leicestershire for many years. I have served on the Audit Committee for several years and look forward to continuing my role as a Corporation Member of NWSLC.



Duncan Cooper - Corporation Vice Chair and Chair of the Resource Committee

Having spent around twenty years as a Senior Executive in the pumping industry, I retired from the position of Group Senior Vice President, Americas, in the summer of 2016, having been based in Chicago at the end of this period. This to pursue a second career in the non-executive world.

Since then I have been Chairman or Non-Executive Director of Private Equity backed Companies, Adey and Stuart & Turner and a Non-Executive Director of George Eliot Hospital Trust.

As a former student of both North Warwickshire & Hinckley College and George Eliot School it is a privilege to be a member of the Corporation.



Phoebe Edwards - Co-opted to the Resource Committee

I've been a Member at NWSLC since 2016 and before that at South Leicestershire College from November 2014. I'm a CIM qualified marketer and have nearly 20 years' experience of delivering publicly funded business support and skills improvement programmes that create jobs, generate wealth and help individuals fulfil their potential. During this time, I've worked with national Government and its agencies, local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships and have a very strong understanding of both policy and operational delivery including how to effectively engage employers. This gives context to my role as a Member.

I began my career in the education sector, firstly as a Research Assistant and then as HE lecturer and later worked for the National Trust, being part of the senior management team for the Northumbria Region with a focus on commercial income generation. I went on to become one of the founding directors of the EMB Group, which is headquartered in Leicester and is the company I currently work for. Since 2006 we've delivered over 100 substantial programmes and projects. These include DIT Investment international trade services, LSC/SFA funded skills programmes such as Train to Gain and the Leadership & Management Advice Service, Investors in People for Business Link. EMB is also a well-recognised specialist in securing and managing complex EU funded projects.



Jerry Hutchinson

I am a former Local Authority Chief Executive and a solicitor. In addition to my legal background, I bring strategic management experience, a strong interest in the wider local community and an understanding of the public sector to the corporation. I have extensive experience as a school governor (secondary) including 5+ years as a Chair, also as a Director of a multi academy trust and as an FE Board member including charring Committees and as Vice Chair of the

Corporation. I am also the independent Chair of a local multi agency Health Improvement Partnership.



Sian John - co-opted to the Student, Learning and Quality Committee

I have worked for North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College since early 2017 and teach in the foundation learning team.

My background is a mixture of finance management and animal behaviour and training, and I am currently in the final year of my third degree, in Business and Management.

I am based in South Derbyshire and spend my spare time travelling, writing songs, and spending time with my sons.



Trusha Lakhani - co-opted to the Audit Committee

I am a qualified accountant. Since 2017 I have started my own business as a Mentor and Business Coach. My business is called Great Business Matters and provides Business Growth coaching. Previous to this, I was Finance and HR Director for Elmhurst Energy Systems Ltd and related companies. I am still on their Board as their Non- Executive Director

I am based in Hinckley and I also volunteer as Chair for the ACCA members' panel for Leicestershire and the National Corporate Sector members' ACCA panel.



Ray Linforth - Corporation Chair

I have lived in Burbage and have been active in the Community for over 37 years. My wife, Pam, is a company director and works in a business supplying the Hair and Beauty industry. Our son Drew, was born and educated within the district before going to university in Leeds.

I recently retired as the Vice-Chancellor & Principal of a West Midlands University, having worked of working in schools, colleges and universities for over 40 years. In Fact I began my further education career in the General Education Department at North Warwickshire College of Technology and Art (now the Nuneaton campus of NWSLC) in 1978 teaching Politics, English and Physical Education and have some very fond memories of the 7 years I spent at the college, not least because I met my wife who was teaching Beauty Therapy there. I'm also grateful for the experience I gained during that time as it gave me an excellent foundation upon which the rest of my career was built.

When I was a young kid growing up in Liverpool, I guess few people would have thought I would do very much with my life. I was fortunate enough to go to a brilliant secondary school with teachers who inspired me and opened my eyes to a world of possibilities I never knew existed. They gave me the confidence and the skills to transform my life and strive to be the very best I could possibly be. Ever since, wherever I've worked, I've tried to do the same for the students I've worked with. I hope that, in some small way, I can continue to do that in my role as Chair of the NWSLC Corporation.



Anil Majithia - Chair of the Audit Committee

I am a highly experienced professional executive with over 25 years' international experience of delivering major transformational change within different industry sectors-including Financial Services, Defence, Banking, Utilities, Consumer Products and Transportations.

I also have significant Board level experience of governance, strategic management, working with senior executive, influencing stakeholders and contributing to overall wellbeing of the organisations and their future stability. I am currently Chair of Voluntary Action Leicestershire, Board Member of Leicester & Leicestershire LEP, Chair of Regional Advisory Board (East Midlands) for Canals & River Trust, I am also an Non-Executive Director for George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust and Chair GEH Charity.



Marion Plant - OBE FCGI

Marion Plant is Principal and Chief Executive of a large FE College; North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College in Leicestershire and Warwickshire. She is also Chief Executive of the Midland Academies Trust which sponsors four secondary schools. Marion also served a 3 year term as a non-executive director at the Department for Education and in March 2018 was awarded the 'Business Woman of the Year Award' by the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce.

She serves on several national/ regional bodies including:

- Deputy-Chair and Trustee of WorldSkills UK
- Board member of Coventry University and co-chair of the Academic Affairs committee
- Board member (Director) for the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) and skills lead
- Member of Coventry and Warwickshire Skills Advisory Panel
- Member of the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's Programme Board
- Trustee of the National Society Council (Church of England)
- Member of the Education & Skills Funding Agency Advisory Group
- Member of the WMCA Skills Advisory Board



Clive Read

I am a commercial property solicitor and qualified in 1992. I rose through the ranks to become a partner and joined Veale Wasbrough Vizards in June 2015, a national practice specialising in a number of areas, including education. I have advised colleges and universities on major development projects and the management of their property portfolios for well over 25 years, providing specialist advice on property development, planning and commercial property.

In addition to heading up the Birmingham office of VWV, I sit on the Council of Birmingham Law Society, having been re-elected for a second 4 year term in 2018. I also continue to sit on the Birmingham Law Society Property and Development Committee, having stood down as chair in Spring 2019 after 5 years. In Autumn 2018 I was fortunate to have been awarded Professional of the Year at the Birmingham Awards. I am a liveryman of the City of London, being a member of the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers.

I enjoy a number of sports and am a very keen long distance walker, both for fun and for charity; in Summer 2019 I completed the 53 mile Race to the Tower in under 16 hours, raising money for Cure Leukaemia.

I have enjoyed acting for and advising North Warwickshire & Hinckley College on its real estate from its inception in 1992 through to 2015.



Tracey Simkins

I began my professional career as an auditor and qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant in 2008. Following 10 years in audit, specialising in the Not for Profit sector, including colleges and academies I decided to take a change in career and became a Business Manager at a Multi Academy Trust where I worked for 3 years. This helped to develop my knowledge working within the education sector at a much more hands on level.

In order to broaden my knowledge within the Charity sector, I then took on my current role as Head of Finance at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in 2016.

I am also a trustee of a charity, Middleton Hall Trust based in Tamworth.