

## Corporation Member Profiles 2020-2021



### **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**

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.



### **Duncan Cooper**

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.



### **Jerry Hutchison**

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 chairing Committees and as Vice Chair of the Corporation. I am also the independent Chair of a local multi agency Health Improvement Partnership.



### **Helen Holley**

Helen is an Environmental professional and Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor, having worked in the environmental sector for 15 years with particular interest in waste management & recycling as well as being an experienced, qualified management system auditor. During her consultancy days Helen helped many businesses establish and maintain ISO 14001 Environmental management systems as well as having experience with many other management systems such as health & safety, quality and laboratory.

Helen currently works as an environmental manager for Wolseley UK Ltd, responsible for the internal and external environmental aspects of the business this is a varied and interesting role. Joining this organisation and being able to provide guidance and direction on sustainability matters is a great opportunity and Helen is looking forward to being able to help where at all possible.



### **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 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 Board Member of Leicester & Leicestershire LEP, Chair of Regional Advisory Board (East Midlands) for Canals & River Trust and a Non-Executive Director for George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust.

### **Leanne Newitt- SLQ Committee Co optee**



I am a highly-motivated lecturer who provides exemplary levels of commitment to team members and students. During my fifteen year employment with North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, I have worked within the Hair and Beauty Department developing and growing successful courses; embedding and coaching for competition and enrichment opportunities. I have and will continue to develop successful working relationships with both internal and external links.

In joining the Students, Learning & Quality Committee as a co-optee, I am keen to be an asset and to enhance the variety of feedback and in turn strive for excellence.



### **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 Coventry and Warwickshire Skills Advisory Board



### **Clive Read - Chair of the People Strategy & Governance Committee**

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 role as Head of Finance at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in 2016 before moving to my current role as Chief Finance Officer at Rethink Mental Illness.

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



### **Dr Andrew Turner**

Dr Turner is Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Teaching and Learning at Coventry University, taking up the role in November 2015. An environmental biologist by disciplinary background, he has worked at Coventry University for 24 years and was previously head of the academic development team. He has strategic responsibility for teaching and learning strategy and a proven track record in the strategic leadership of teaching and learning and the enhancement of the student experience.

Since 2010, Coventry University has undergone a radical transformation resulting in recognition as the Times Modern University of the Year in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and the Times Higher Education University of the Year in 2015. Andrew led and delivered many of the key University-wide projects that have been instrumental to the enhancement of the student experience at Coventry. He has led the establishment of the portfolio of accredited academic staff development opportunities including the PgCert HE Academic Practice and the Accredited Professional Recognition Scheme.

He has worked extensively internationally and established deep relationships with the senior management teams of international collaborative partners in the Middle East and Africa and was instrumental in initiating, leading and delivering accredited post-graduate academic development courses in Oman and Ghana. In his current role, he has responsibility for chairing institutional and course approval events for new collaborative partners.



### **Charlotte Walton - Student Member**

I am a hardworking and determined individual, who loves taking on new challenges, and helping to improve the community and the environment around me. Within my College years I have taken on the roles of a course rep, and a union member, each role has given me a different insight. I was interested in gaining a new perspective as a student