Corporation Member Profiles 2026-2027 (Sept 2026v1)



Susan Adcock (Staff Member) - Students, Learning and Quality Committee

Following careers in retail, banking and working in holistic therapy, Susan came to the College as an adult to study for her degree, subsequently gaining a teaching qualification and a Master's Degree in Educational Innovation before rejoining as a lecturer within the Health and Life Science Sector. Susan has developed an HND Programme in Social and Community work as well as teaching on other Higher Education Courses, though she is happy, when required to teach across different academic levels building relationships with our FE student cohort.

Being an active member in the local community Susan has built a network of contacts to enhance the opportunities for our students to gain work experience and volunteering opportunities. Being a member of the Students, Learning and Quality Committee will allow Susan to be part of ensuring that students receive the high quality of education they deserve.



Sally Barnett - Students, Learning and Quality Committee

Sally is a barrister at 2 New Street Chambers, Leicester, with over 36 years' experience, specializing in family law with clients from the widest range of backgrounds and diversity. A large chapter of her career was spent working with vulnerable parents and children in the field of child protection and although the focus of her work over many years has been on the financial and child arrangements on separation, child welfare remains at the forefront. Within her work, Sally has seen the impact of the access (or lack of access) to high quality education within a supportive setting and how it affects the outcome for each child.

Until June 2024, she had responsibility for leading and managing Chambers for 10 years whilst continuing in full time practise. During this time, many group and individual awards have been received for the quality of the work, service and client care delivered.

Sally is a trustee of Alex's Wish, a charity set up to raise funds to find a cure for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. She is also a member of the DMU Business and Law Advisory Board, connecting students with the business community across the East Midlands including by the provision of work experience.

Sally grew up in Manchester and has lived in Leicester throughout her career. She benefited from free education and was able to pursue her dream of becoming a barrister. She is passionate about the difference accessible education can make and how we all benefit from that..



Chris Benham - Finance and General Purposes Committee

Chris joined the team in June 2024 and is a qualified accountant.

He brings a mix of experience having worked within a variety of Finance roles within a variety of sectors including Local Authority, Charity, the NHS and the private sector. He is currently the Director of Finance of Cheshire East Council and before this role he has held a variety of senior finance posts across the charity sector, the NHS and the private sector.

Prior to joining Cheshire East Council, Chris spent a short period of time as the Director of Finance for Vista (a visual impairment charity based in Leicestershire) after spending 15 years within the NHS where he finished as a Director of Finance and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn. Prior to the NHS, Chris spent two years as the Group Financial Controller for a pan-European, private equity financed, manufacturing business following a 13-year career at Total UK, the UK downstream subsidiary of the French based oil and gas group. Chris holds an honours degree in Economics and is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.



Rita Davey - Students, Learning and Quality Committee

With a strong foundation in industry, including 12 years at Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Rita brings extensive experience in supplier engagement, capability building, and quality improvement. Her work has centred on strengthening partnerships, developing leadership, and embedding behaviours that drive sustained performance across complex organisations.

Rita's career spans senior roles in further education, national skills bodies, and manufacturing, giving her a unique perspective on the relationship between learning, workforce development, and business impact. She has supported individuals, teams, and organisations to embed continuous improvement, design effective programmes, and create learning networks that enable people to thrive.

Passionate about the power of education to transform lives and communities, Rita is committed to supporting inclusive, future-focused approaches that help learners succeed. As a governor, she looks forward to drawing on her strategic experience to champion strong partnerships, encourage collaboration with industry, and contribute to an environment where students can explore their potential and grow with confidence.



Steve Dover - Finance and General Purposes Committee

Steve Dover's first job at the age of fifteen was as an Apprentice Shipbuilder with Cammell Laird in Birkenhead. He went on to Further Education and eventually achieved a Degree in Environmental Engineering at Newcastle Polytechnic in 1978.

Steve spent 24 years in construction operating in the UK, Jordan, Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman. He led the overall construction of some of the largest developments in the City of London during the '80s and early '90s as well as major construction projects for the Royal Oman Police and Sultan's Armoured Regiment in the Sultanate of Oman. In 1999 he led the implementation of the Criminal Records Bureau quickly followed by the establishment of the London Congestion Charge. He then started his own company working with a number of organisations and Central Government. He became a senior civil servant in Central Government and was a leader of the Welfare Reform Programmes in the Department for Work & Pensions (Employment & Support Allowance and Universal Credit). He also led in the outsourcing initiative of departmental back office services to two shared services providers across all Government departments.

Moving on from Government he went to transform the charity Help for Heroes and latterly has led and advised on major transformations in the UK Higher Education sector, within which he continues to strive to make a difference. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and has led two major scientific expeditions to the remotest part of the Sultanate of Oman.

Steve's interests are family (married with 3 grown up kids and 3 grandchildren), scuba diving, climbing and walking, photography and writing poetry some of which has been published.

Steve wanted to join the Corporation because he felt that his personal and professional attributes and experience had much to offer the Corporation, and the College and the Students. He aspires to serve and make a difference to the society in which he lives and the people around him.



Jeannette Essex - Students, Learning and Quality Committee

Jeannette brings over 35 years of local government experience to her role, during which she has successfully led the full range of services for vulnerable children and young people, including those that are at risk of social exclusion. Her role as safeguarding lead for education has given her a breadth of expertise in keeping children and young people safe. She is passionate about co-production and firmly believes that young people should be at the centre of service design. She is committed to enabling young people to follow aspirational pathways to adulthood that enable them to secure meaningful employment that supports their hopes and ambitions and leave fulfilling independent lives.

	Jeannette lives locally and has herself studied at the College. She feels privileged to have the opportunity to contribute to the community that has given her and her family so much.
	**Helen Holley - Audit Committee** Helen is an Environmental professional and Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor and has worked in the environmental sector for 15 years with a particular interest in waste management & recycling, as well as being an experienced, qualified management system auditor. During her consultancy days Helen has 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 management. In her current role as Environmental Manager at Holland & Barrett International Ltd, Helen oversees both internal and external environmental aspects of the business. She is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental reporting & legislation, developing policy, and driving strategic initiatives to align the business with its Net Zero commitments and long-term sustainability goals.
	**Michelle Kavanagh - Audit Committee** Michelle is an experienced and highly respected Governance and Risk specialist, Ex big 4 consulting partner (KPMG) with proven track record of working in partnership with Boards and Execs across multiple sectors from owner managed to globally listed businesses. An expert in providing advisory support to businesses in crisis or supporting in achievement of specific strategic objectives. Known and respected as an authentic leader with an engaging leadership style which enabled her to deliver complex projects with multi disciplined teams to a variety of business's both in the UK and overseas. She is a committed role model focused on ensuring diversity of thought and on creating an environment for all to succeed through active mentoring. Michelle recently retired from the KPMG partnership and is pursuing a Non Exec Director (NED) portfolio career, she is a seasoned boardroom professional.
	**Mannie Ketley - Finance and General Purposes Committee** Having worked in local government for over 20 years Mannie feels very strongly about creating opportunities and improving the quality of life for local communities and is delighted to be a part of the College's Corporation. Mannie brings Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer Experience to the role and is a CIPFA qualified accountant. Mannie's favourite ways to relax is enjoying time with friends, family and the dog. When she is not being a mum taxi she enjoys watching Formula One and football.
	**Simon Kirby - Students, Learning and Quality Committee** A strategic marketing and communications leader with over 25 years of experience across public and private sectors, Simon brings substantial marketing and public relations expertise to the Corporation. Simon has an extensive background in the education sector including leadership roles at large further education institutions, where he has driven significant improvements in student recruitment and engagement. He has also taught at a number of HE institutions. Simon's most recent role was as Director of Marketing and Communications at a late seed-stage technology company, providing insight into AI and digital innovation as well as the challenges faced by a growing small business. Simon has also worked in communications roles for global high-tech manufacturing business Rolls-Royce. He also brings experience in crisis management, internal communications, and public affairs to the Corporation.



Aidan Lewis - Finance and General Purposes Committee

Aidan is a senior technical and production leader with over 17 years' experience in the engineering and manufacturing sector. Having started his career as an engineering apprentice at North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, he has progressed into senior management roles with responsibility for technical design, research and development, product operations, quality and health and safety across two manufacturing sites.

Aidan is a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers(IMechE) and a STEM Ambassador, reflecting his commitment to promoting engineering careers and supporting young people to develop the skills and confidence needed for success in industry. He is passionate about strengthening the link between education and local employers to ensure students can access high-quality technical pathways and real-world opportunities.

Aidan lives locally and is an advocate for lifelong learning, continuous improvement and community engagement. Outside of work , he enjoys long-distance running and complete the London marathon in 2024.



Ray Linforth OBE FCGI - Corporation Chair - Finance and General Purposes, Students, Learning and Quality, and People, Strategy and Governance Committee

Ray has lived in Burbage and have been active in the community for over 37 years.

Ray retired as the Vice-Chancellor & Principal of a West Midlands University, having worked in schools, colleges and universities for over 40 years. He began his 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 has some very fond memories of the 7 years he spent at the College, not least because he met his wife who was teaching Beauty Therapy there. He is also grateful for the experience he gained during that time as it gave him an excellent foundation upon which the rest of his career was built.

Growing up in Liverpool, few people would have thought he would do very much with his life. He was however fortunate enough to go to a brilliant secondary school with teachers who inspired hm and opened his eyes to a world of possibilities he never knew existed. They gave Ray the confidence and the skills to transform his life and strive to be the very best he could possibly be. Ever since, wherever he has worked, he has tried to do the same for the students he has worked with. Ray hopes that, in some small way, he can continue to do that in his role as Chair of the NWSLC Corporation.

Ray sits on the Students Learning & Quality Committee, the Finance &General Purposes Committee and the People, Strategy & Governance Committee.



Peter Lee - Corporation Co-optee

Peter is a Chartered Health and Safety Practitioner with over 20 years' experience in EHS (environmental, health and safety) with a particular interest in the area of improving safety culture. Skilled in building relationships across disciplines and hierarchy, Peter is a Corporate Regional EHS Manager supporting over 80 different locations in Europe, Africa and Middle East for a global manufacturer of construction and mining equipment.



Jeevan Marwaha - Audit Committee

As a lawyer at Formula E, Jeevan brings legal expertise and a passion for sustainable solutions to his role as a Member at NWSLC. Having grown up in Coventry, where he still resides, and attended university in Leicester, he is deeply committed to supporting the community that shaped his own educational journey.

With experience in international motorsport, he has a unique perspective on the intersection of law, technology, and sustainability. His role at Formula E has honed his skills in navigating complex legal frameworks and fostering forward-thinking partnerships.

He is passionate about helping the next generation find their path. As a governor, his goal is to ensure that every student at NWSLC has access to the resources, guidance, and opportunities they need to thrive. Beyond his professional life, he is an avid sports enthusiast with a passion for football, golf, and tennis. He also enjoys travelling and exploring new cultures.



Declan McNaughton - Student Member

Declan is studying his 2nd year of Level 3 Music Performance at the College's Hinckley Campus. He takes pride and joy in meeting others not only from his own class and course but also others all over the college. He is committed into making new friends, making sure people feel like they're being heard and valued.

He says that being the President after someone as dedicated as Simba will be tough to follow, but that it will also give him the chance to not only continue new work but also continue Simba's. He looks forward to the year ahead and it's opportunities that it will open up for everyone at the College.



Steve Maxey - Finance and General Purposes Committee

Steve is the Chief Executive of North Warwickshire Borough Council, where he has worked for over 20 years. A qualified solicitor, Steve has significant strategic leadership experience and is also heavily involved in governance issues, taking on the role of trustee for two charities as well as a Director of a not-for-profit housing company and a Registered Social Landlord.

Steve is a keen sports fan, particularly cricket, playing a handful of games each year.



Simba Ncube - Student Member

Simba is a student at the College and takes pride in representing the College and its ethos. He is committed to ensuring that every person at the College feels heard, supported and valued in every decision that affects them.



Marion Plant OBE FCGI - Principal, Chief Executive & Corporation Member

Marion Plant OBE is Principal and Chief Executive of North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (NWSLC), a role she has held with distinction for 19 years following more than two decades in senior leadership across the further education sector. In April 2026, Marion was seconded on a part-time basis to Coventry University as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (FE), while continuing in her full capacity as Principal and CEO at NWSLC.

A former midwife and health visitor, Marion moved into teaching early in her career and has since become one of the UK's most influential FE leaders. She received an OBE in 2009 for her services to further education and has consistently championed excellence, opportunity, and sector-wide improvement. Under her leadership, NWSLC has maintained strong Ofsted outcomes and has secured multiple regional and national awards for quality and innovation.

	Marion is Chair of WorldSkills UK, where she also leads the EDI Advisory Group, and has been a driving force behind the development of the WorldSkills Centre of Excellence partnership. NWSLC students regularly top national medal league tables, including in foundation skills competitions that the College pioneered. Marion holds a wide portfolio of national and regional board roles. She serves on the Local Skills Advisory Boards for both the East Midlands and Coventry & Warwickshire, the AQA FE Leaders Group, the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Care Future Skills Board, and the Warwickshire County Council Education Provider Board. She is also a member of the Association of Colleges 2030 and Climate Change Reference Group and Vice-Chair of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Simplification Pathfinder Board. Marion is a long-serving trustee and safeguarding lead for the National Society Council of the Church of England. Her previous senior roles include a three-year term as a Non-Executive Director at the Department for Education, and Chief Executive of the Midland Academies Trust for 12 years, overseeing four secondary schools. She has served on two Local Enterprise Partnerships (Coventry & Warwickshire and Leicester & Leicestershire), acting as Vice-Chair of the Coventry & Warwickshire LEP, and completed three terms as a governor at Coventry University. Marion has an exceptional track record in leadership development and is particularly proud of the many colleagues she has supported and mentored who have progressed into principal-level roles across the sector. She also spearheaded the creation of the award winning MIRA Technology Institute (MTI), a specialist centre delivering advanced automotive and future mobility training for leading brands including Jaguar Land Rover and Bentley. In recognition of this pioneering work, the College was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Education in February 2026. Her achievements have been recognised through numerous awards, including Businesswoman of the Year (East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, 2018) and a Lifetime Achievement Award (Leicestershire Live Women in Business Awards, 2019). Marion also holds fellowships from both the City & Guilds Institute and the Chartered Institute for Further Education.
	**Natalie Prosser - Students, Learning and Quality Committee** Natalie Prosser is a solicitor by background, with seventeen years in government, specialising in public and regulatory law, regulatory operations and governance. Her previous roles have included General Counsel at the Gambling Commission, Director of Operations, Vocational and Technical Qualifications and Director of Legal at Ofqual and regulatory and policy lead on the independent Farm Inspection and Regulation Review. Natalie is currently the CEO of the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) where she has been since February 2021. Natalie leads all the work of the OEP including annual scrutiny of government progress against its legally binding environmental goals and targets, investigating and enforcing against public bodies responsibilities under environmental laws, assessing how well environmental laws are being used in practice and providing advice to government on new environmental laws. Natalie is a keen open water endurance swimmer, having completed more than 20 marathon swims of 10km or more. She embraces the more traditional approach to the sport of wearing only swimsuit, goggles and cap.
	**Luke Robinson - Corporation Co-optee** Luke has recently joined C9 Recruitment as the Chief Operating Officer with a wealth of experience, having previously served as Group Director HESQ and Compliance Director at Wincanton, where he oversaw health, safety, security, environmental sustainability, quality, and compliance across 160 sites for 16,000 employees, in the supply chain industry and as a Global SHEP Director in the Defence Industry. Luke is widely recognised in the SHEP profession for his innovative work with wearable technology and virtual reality, bringing fresh perspectives and cutting-

	edge thinking to engagement. Luke has experience as a school governor and has worked in education throughout his career. Luke was also instrumental in the launch of the CLEAR partnership with NWSLC.
	**Dr. Rebecca Suart - Students, Learning and Quality Committee** Rebecca joined the Corporation having worked in the Further Education sector for three decades as a lecturer, middle manager and researcher. During her career she has led a wide variety of curriculum areas. NWSLC has been a significant part of her journey in FE, and her connection to the College started in 1992 when she undertook her teaching training. She has a keen interest in skills competitions and helped to develop the first national Beauty Therapy competition to find a competitor to represent the UK in the World Skills competition in Montreal, Canada. Rebecca has maintained a close association with FE through her recent work for the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Warwick where she taught on the 2+2 and part time degrees, as well as her research on vocational pathways in Further Education at the University of Derby. Rebecca currently works in Department for Education as a Strategy Manager for Insights on Sustainability and Climate Change Education. She continues to contribute to the research community on vocational education, student aspirations, intersectional inequality and lifelong learning in her role as Honorary Assistant Professor in Vocational Education at the University of Nottingham. Rebecca is passionate about the transformative potential of Further Education and puts the student experience at the heart of everything she does.
	**Nick Simkins - Audit Committee Co-optee** Nick is a former Chartered Accountant having retired from the Accountancy profession. He spent his executive career as a Partner at a number of leading accountancy firms in the UK. Nick currently serves as a Non-Executive Director for the Professional Standards Authority, a local housing association and is an Independent Council Member of Aston University. He has previous experience of being a Corporation Member and Chair of Audit Committee at two FE colleges.
	**Prof. Andrew Turner - Chair Students, Learning and Quality Committee** Professor Andrew Turner is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and Vice-Provost of Coventry University Group. He has responsibility for the strategic leadership of the Education provision across the University Group. He also has responsibility for the Office for Teaching and Learning which is a University-Group unit to support the development and delivery of the curriculum, pedagogy (teaching, learning and assessment), education technology and academic development across the University Group. Andrew joined the University in 1996 originally as a Lecturer in Environmental Science. His leadership of key University-wide projects has been instrumental to the enhancement of the student experience at Coventry. He led the implementation of an innovative new learning experience platform, Aula, replacing traditional virtual learning environment. Aula is at the heart of an Education Technology ecosystem providing an engaged, social approach to learning.