

## Corporation Member Profiles 2023-2024



### **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 Holland & Barrett International Ltd, responsible for the internal and external environmental aspects of the business including compliance with all Environmental laws, developing policy and strategic planning, ensuring the business is on course to meet Net Zero objectives and future targets.



### **Craig Humphrey**

Craig has a wealth of experience working across the private and public sectors with a career spanning more than 30 years.

His role as Leader of Rugby Borough Council was extended in 2020 when he became the first Executive Leader in the country. Praised for his strong and progressive leadership by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State, Craig is now at the forefront of the growth agenda within Coventry and Warwickshire.

Recognising the need for business to have a single point of contact for support he instigated the nationally recognised model of Account Management alongside robust data to assist decision makers across the sub region.



### **Simon Kirby**

Simon is a career marketing and public relations professional who has worked in both the public and private sectors. He also taught Marketing and Communications at both undergraduate and post graduate level. He currently works as a consultant. His principal areas of expertise are the use of data to provide marketing insight and drive financial performance. He also has extensive experience in Crisis PR. He recently retired from the role of Director of Communications Marketing and Customer Operations at Nottingham College where he was also a member of the Executive Leadership Team.



### **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 retired company director who worked 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. He is now an Assistant Director for student support in a Russell Group university.

Three years ago I 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 Co Chair and 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.



### **Steve Maxey**

Steve is the Chief Executive of North Warwickshire Borough Council, where he has worked for nearly 20 years.

A qualified solicitor, Steve has significant strategic leadership experience and is also heavily involved in governance issues, as a Trustee of two Charities as well as being a Director of a not for profit housing company.

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



### **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 years of 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 North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (NWSLC) and Chief Executive of the Midland Academies Trust which is responsible for secondary schools. Marion also previously served a 3-year term as a non-executive director at the Department for Education. In 2018 Marion was awarded the 'Business Woman of the Year Award' by the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce and in September 2019 was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Leicestershire Live Women in Business Awards, devised to celebrate the outstanding achievements of female professionals in the region. Marion was also granted 'Highly Commended' in the Pearson National Teaching Awards 'Lifetime Achievement' category in 2022. She serves on several national/ regional bodies including:

- Interim Chair and Trustee of WorldSkills UK

- Director (board member) of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) and skills lead
- Member of Coventry and Warwickshire Skills Advisory Panel
- Vice Chair of the Nuneaton Towns' Fund Board
- Trustee of the National Society Council (Church of England)
- Member of the Education & Skills Funding Agency Advisory Group
- Member of the AoC's Portfolio Group for Climate Change



### **Luke Robinson**

Luke is a Group Director HSEQ & Compliance Director for over 160 sites and 16,000 people in the Supply Chain Industry. He is responsible for Strategic direction and leadership of health, safety, environmental; sustainability & quality (HSEQ) as well as the Groups Operation training team. He has experience as a school governor and has worked in education throughout his career. Recently, Luke was instrumental in the launch of the CLEAR partnership with NWSLC as well as key industry projects in wearable technology and virtual reality.



### **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 at Martineau Johnson where I have spent the bulk of my career, joining Veale Wasbrough Vizards in June 2015, where I headed up their Birmingham office and continued to advise colleges and universities. I (re)joined Shakespeare Martineau in May 2021 where I head up the Birmingham office and also lead the firm's Education Real Estate practice. I have advised colleges and universities on major development projects and the management of their property portfolios for well over 30 years, providing specialist advice on property development and commercial property.

I still sit on the Birmingham Law Society Property and Development Committee, having stood down as chair in Spring 2019 after 5 years. After 8 years in post on the Council of Birmingham Law Society I am about to step down from that position in Autumn 2022.

In Autumn 2018 I was fortunate to have been awarded Professional of the Year at the Birmingham Awards and in Spring 2021 was awarded Partner of the Year at the Birmingham Law Society Legal Awards.

I am a liveryman of the City of London, being a member of the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers.

In my spare time I still enjoy a number of sports and am a very keen long distance walker, both for fun and for charity, most recently having completed the 40 mile Coventry Way in just over 11 hours.



### **Riley Sherrard ( Student Member)**

Hi, I am Riley , I'm 18 currently studying uniformed public services level 3. I'm a keen drummer and I want to become a Royal Marines bugler. I have cool pink hair and a great smile. I'm easily approachable and always willing to listen to students and staff, ensuring they are all heard and not forgotten about.





### **Nick Simkins**

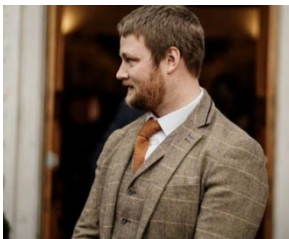
Nick is a chartered accountant who has over 25 years' experience working with FE and HE Institutions. Nick has served as a head of not for profit at a number of leading accountancy firms. He has previous experience of being a Corporation member and chair of Audit Committee at two FE Colleges.



### **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 Director of Finance at Rethink Mental Illness and Chief Finance Officer at Mental Health UK.



### **James Stanley (Staff Member)**

James is the manager of the creative industries at Hinckley campus. With lots of experience in the FE sector teaching across all levels and leading various projects and curriculum teams, James is a passionate educator and advocate for the further education sector and the impact it has on communities.

James is a musician who regularly plays professionally as a guitarist on many shows across the UK and Europe. As a voluntary Blood biker James is also a keen motorcyclist commuting most days. James lives in Kingsbury with his family and enjoys spending time with his family on hikes and travelling the UK in their camper van.



### **Dr. Rebecca Suart**

Rebecca joins the governing body 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 including hair and beauty, catering, sports, fashion and tourism. NWSLC has been a significant part of her journey in FE, and her connection to the college started in 1992 when she did 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 the Civil Service as a Social Researcher working on a range of high priority projects aimed at addressing social, economic and policy issues. 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.



### **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.