

Corporation Member Profiles 2023-2024



Maisy Deakin (Student Member)

Profile to be supplied



Steve Dover

My first job at the age of 15 was as an Apprentice Shipbuilder with Cammell Lairds in Birkenhead. I went on to Further Education and eventually achieved a Degree in Environmental Engineering at Newcastle Polytechnic in 1978.

I spent 24 years in construction operating in the UK, Jordan, Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman. I led the overall construction of some of the largest developments in the City of London during the '80s and early '90s as well as leading on major construction projects for the Royal Oman Police and Sultan's Armoured Regiment in the Sultanate of Oman – where I got to drive a Chieftain Tank and fire the gun – which was fun! In 1999 I led the implementation of the Criminal Records Bureau quickly followed by the establishment of the London Congestion Charge. Following those I started my own company and worked with Thames Water / ITNET / Transport for London / Stratford District Council / HMRC and Cap Gemini Aspire and Central Government.

I became a top Civil Servant in Central Government and was a leader of the major Welfare Reform Programmes in the Department for Work & Pensions (Employment & Support Allowance and Universal Credit). I also led in the outsourcing initiative of Departmental back office services to two Shared Services Providers across all Government Departments.

Moving on from Government I went to transform the charity Help for Heroes and latterly have led and advised on major Transformations in the UK Higher Education sector – within which I continue to strive to make a difference.

I am a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and have led two major scientific expeditions to the remotest part of the Sultanate of Oman discovering the wreck of the first British Merchant ship to be sunk by the Germans in World War One; a new species of Humpback Whale and untouched tombs and dwellings over 5,000 years old. Google it to see more if you like.

My interests are family (married with 3 grown up kids and 3 Grandchildren) / scuba diving – which I have been doing now for 40 years / climbing & walking / photography / writing poetry -published author.

I aspire to serve and make a difference to the society within which I live and the people around me.



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.



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

Anil Majithia is the Vice Chair of the Corporation and Chair of the Audit Committee at North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College. Anil retired in 2017 from his full time role as Delivery Director for HPE and brings with him significant experience of delivering major transformational business & technology change within different industry sectors. He currently holds a portfolio of Board positions- he is Co Chair and Board Member of Leicester & Leicestershire LEP, Chair of Regional Advisory Board (East Midlands) for Canal & River Trust, a Non-Executive Director for George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust and the Chair of George Eliot Hospital Charity.



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 progressed into teaching following a career as a midwife and health visitor. She has held senior management positions within the further education sector for 23 years and has been Principal and Chief Executive of North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (NWSLC) for 19 years. In 2009, Marion received an OBE for services to further education. Marion has been relentless in supporting activities that promote and influence the raising of standards in the FE sector. Under her leadership, NWSLC has been consistently assessed as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and has successfully secured multiple regional and national awards for excellence.

Marion is Chair of WorldSkills UK and has actively supported the development of the WorldSkills Centre of Excellence partnership. Students at NWSLC consistently lead national medal league tables, including in entry-level foundation skills competitions which the college itself conceived and developed.

Marion led the development of a successful technology institute that delivers highly acclaimed training for the automotive sector including for prestigious brands such as Jaguar Land Rover and Bentley. She served a three-year term as a non-executive director at the Department for Education and is a trustee of the National Society Council of the Church of England. She is proud of her role in developing college leaders, particularly women, supporting them to become principals. Marion is a member of the Coventry and Warwickshire Skills Advisory Panel and is also a member of the Association of College's Portfolio Group for Climate Change. Over recent years, Marion has been a Director on two Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) boards (Coventry and Warwickshire and Leicester and Leicestershire) and served as Vice Chair for the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP. Marion also served three terms as a governor at Coventry University.

Marion was the Chief Executive of the Midland Academies Trust, which was responsible for four secondary schools for 12 years until November 2023 and

in 2018 Marion was awarded the 'Businesswoman of the Year Award' by the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce. 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. She recently achieved fellowships from the City and Guilds Institute and the Chartered Institute for Further Education.



Luke Robinson

Luke is a Group Director HESQ & 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 headed up the Birmingham office until end April 2023. I 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 stepped down from that position in Autumn 2022, staying on to finish chairing the wholesale review and implementation of the Society's new governance structure which was adopted in December 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.



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 Andrew Turner is Pro Vice-Chancellor, Curriculum Development. He has responsibility for the strategic leadership of Curriculum Development across the Coventry University Group. He 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) and academic development across the whole 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 recently led the

implementation of an innovative new learning experience platform, Aula, replacing the traditional virtual learning environment. Aula is at the heart of a new Education Technology ecosystem providing an engaged, social approach to learning.

Andrew has worked extensively internationally with our 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 2019, he developed and led the Oman's Entrepreneurial Leaders Programme – a project funded under the Gulf Science, Innovation and Knowledge Economy (GSIKE) initiative of the UK Government delivered with the National Council for Entrepreneurship Education and the Middle East College.