

## The Corporation of New College Durham – Corporation Members

### **Christine Warren – Chair**

Christine has been a Member since 2015 and has served as Chair of the Corporation since July 2020. She has lived and worked in the Durham area for most of her life. Christine has over 30 years' experience working in education in the North East in leadership roles, as an education consultant for school improvement, and as a Local Leader in Education. She has Board level experience in a Foundation Trust and retains a keen interest in education and a belief in lifelong learning.



Christine sits on five Committees: Further Education Quality Curriculum and Students, Finance & Resources, Academy Sponsorship, Remuneration and Search (which she also Chairs).

### **Linda Wight – Vice Chair**

Linda has been a Member since 2014 and Vice Chair of the Corporation since 2016. Although originally from Consett Linda spent around 25 years living in various parts of the country while working for the Prison Service. Linda carried out a variety of roles in prison, and also held various roles within the Ministry of Justice Headquarters.



After leaving the Ministry of Justice Linda moved back to the North East around 10 years ago, working as a project Manager for a locally based charity and social enterprise.

Linda sits on five Committees: Audit, Higher Education Quality Curriculum and Students, Academy Sponsorship (which she also Chairs), Remuneration (which she also Chairs) and Search.

### **Ben Fisher**

Ben has been a Member of the Corporation since 2021.

Ben sits on the Finance and Resources Committee which he also chairs

Awaiting  
photograph

## **Joy Brindle**

Joy has been a Member since 13 July 2016. She has over thirty years' experience in local government in the Midlands and North East, her most recent roles being in senior leadership teams. As well as her Corporation role, Joy is a student herself, having recently started studying for a PhD. She is chair of a small heritage/environmental charity, and a gardening volunteer at a charity which supports adults with their mental wellbeing.

Joy chairs the Further Education Quality Curriculum and Students Committee as well as serving on the Finance and Resources Committee.



## **Andy Broadbent**

Andy has been a Member since July 2020 following appointment to the role of Principal and Chief Executive of New College Durham. He has worked in the North East area all of his life and has over 28 years' experience working in the public sector including over 26 years' experience working in Further and Higher Education in senior financial roles. He has Board level experience in Academies and Local Government Pension Funds and is a Fellow Chartered Certified Accountant (FCCA).

Andy sits on five Committees: Further Education Quality Curriculum and Students, Higher Education Quality Curriculum and Students, Finance & Resources, Academy Sponsorship and Search.



## **Joyce Drummond-Hill**

Joyce has been a Member since 22 June 2016. Joyce worked for many years as a Head of Internal Audit in the Public Sector. She served on a number of global committees for her professional organisation and gained board level experience in an NHS trust and a number of charities before joining Corporation.

Joyce sits on two Committees: Academy Sponsorship and Audit.



## **Davey Benson**

Davey has been a Member since July 2022 and is the Support Staff Governor. He has 35 years industry experience, working in mechanical engineering across a diverse range of sectors, including automation and Engineering subcontract. He has worked as an Apprentice Skills Coordinator within the School of Mechanical Engineering and Built Environment since December 2018. Davey has over 35 years of instructing and assessing military skills in the voluntary youth sector and most recently strategic leadership within the Cadet Forces.

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## **Mark Gomersall**

Mark Gomersall has been a member of the corporation since 2021, he is the academic staff governor having been employed at New College Durham since 2013. Following undergraduate study and training in Finance, Mark retrained to become a Maths teacher – with experience in Secondary education prior to working in the Further Education sector.



Mark sits on two Committees: 'Further Education Quality Curriculum and Students' and 'Higher Education Quality Curriculum and Students'.

## **Ian Green**

Ian has been a Member since March 2022. He has always lived in the North East and worked in Sunderland within Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering for the last 39 years. Ian has extensive experience working across Africa, the Middle East, Europe, India and The Americas. For the last 27 years his focus has been on learning and development within the sector. He has been involved in multiple boards both regionally and nationally and currently jointly Chairs the NE Apprenticeship Ambassador network, as well as representing the region nationally on the Electrification and green sustainability agenda.

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Ian sits on two Committees: Audit and Higher Education Quality Curriculum and Students.

## **Megan Poole**

Megan has been a Member since July 2021 and is the Students' Union President. Before Megan was a member of staff she was a student at New College Durham for 7 years, studying all the way from Level 3 Music, FdA Music, BA (Hons) Music to her PGCE.

Megan sits on two Committees: Higher Education Quality, Curriculum & Students and Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students.



## **Allen Eccles**

Allen has been a Member of the Corporation since 2021 and is also a member of the Audit Committee. Allen is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. He specialises in risk management and controls, supporting financial services organisations across the UK and North America. Allen lives in Durham and has a keen passion for helping young people to achieve their potential through education.



## **Sarat Pediredla**

Sarat has been Member of the Corporation since August 2021. He is the CEO of Hedgehog Lab, a global product consultancy which focuses on assisting brands and enterprises in achieving their business goals using emerging technologies. The business is now ranked #1 for mobile & web app development by independent analysts Clutch. Hedgehog Lab has raised £2m of investment from Private Equity investors, was ranked #9 in GP Bullhound Fastest Growing Northern Tech businesses and in the FT 1000 list of fastest-growing European businesses. It was also named a Great Place to Work in the UK. Sarat, who holds a Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering from Southampton Solent University, remains passionate about all things digital and is clear on his ambition to make hedgehog lab the world's biggest and best digital product consultancy.

Sarat sits on two committees: Further Education Quality Curriculum and Students Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee.



## **Chris Patterson**

Chris has been a Member of Corporation since September 2022. He is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant and has had a number of roles in education finance for over 13 years, including working as a school business manager, as chair of a school finance committee and most recently as the government's lead for financial reporting and audit of FE colleges. He also has a personal connection with NCD as he undertook part of his accountancy training at the college.

Chris sits on two committees: Finance & Resources and Academy Sponsorship.

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## **Nicola Watchman-Smith**

Dr. Nicola Watchman Smith (PhD) has been a Member since August 2021. She has worked in higher education for over 15 years. She is currently Deputy Director of Student Learning at Teesside University, previously Head of Academic Apprenticeships & Teaching Excellence Awards at Advance HE. She was born, bred and lives in Co. Durham.



Nicola is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (PFHEA) and sits on numerous committees and Boards, including co-opted member of the QAA's Advisory Committee for Degree Awarding Powers (ACDAP), HE Apprenticeship Trailblazer groups.

A published author, Nicola writes on various topics, usually associated with either higher education or popular music. When not working she likes wild swimming, live music and pub quizzes.

There is currently a student governor vacancy.

The Chair can be contacted at the College's address:

**New College Durham, Framwellgate Moor Campus, Durham, DH1 5ES**