

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.

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.

Ben Fisher

Ben has been a Member of the Corporation since 2021. Ben is Associate Dean for Business and Enterprise and Acting Associate Dean for Research and Innovation in the Business School at Teesside University. He leads all aspects of research, business and enterprise in the School including REF, research centre and research group management, postgraduate research, commercial income generation, employability and managing external partnerships.



Ben sits on the Higher Education Quality, Curriculum and Students Committee which he also chairs.

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.

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.

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.



Davey sits on two Committees: Further Education Quality Curriculum and Students and Academy Sponsorship. He is also the Governor responsible for Safeguarding.

Allen Eccles

Allen has been a Member of the Corporation since September 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.



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.

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.

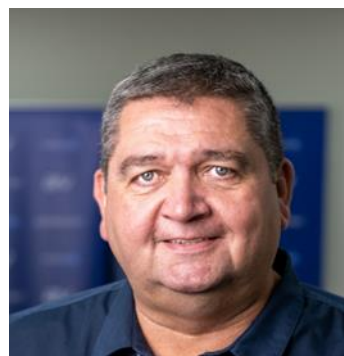
Mark sits on two Committees: 'Further Education Quality Curriculum and Students' and 'Higher Education Quality Curriculum and Students'.

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.

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

Awaiting
photograph



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.



Stephen King

Stephen King has been a member since August 2021. He is an experienced executive and non-executive director in large sector leading organisations and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and a member of the Institute of Directors. He enjoyed a 27-year career at leading bus company Go North East, which took him from youth trainee to boardroom as Commercial Director.

In addition to his role at New College Durham he is also a non-executive director at Visit County Durham and a Board Trustee at Beamish Museum.

He is a regular speaker on the MBA Business Course at Teesside University Business School on Corporate Social Responsibility and Environment Social Governance and is an SME business mentor on the Captured Programme at Newcastle University Business School. He is also an Enterprise Advisor with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership where he is paired with North Durham Academy to support its career guidance agenda.

Stephen sits on the Finance and Resources Committee at the College which he also chairs. He is also the Governor responsible for Careers Education and Guidance.



Emily Baxter

Emily Baxter has been a member of the Corporation since November 2022. Emily has a Masters in Applied Management and is a governance and compliance professional who has worked across both public and private sectors and is keen to share knowledge and experiences to support the College and students achieve through education.

Emily is a member of two committees, Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students and the Audit Committee.



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.



Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies for independent members and one student governor.

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

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