

Luminate

Board and Committee Member Profiles (A-Z)

AARON CASSERLY STEWART

Aaron is a jazz vocalist and former singer with the three-time Grammy Award winning group the '[Sounds of Blackness](#)'. He is the former personal assistant to Morris Hayes (Prince's keyboardist & band leader of the New Power Generation). Winner of a 2012 NAACP Image Award, Aaron is a Professor of Music Business at the [London Performing Academy of Music](#) and is the Executive Producer at Supa Qween Records. Aaron is also the Chair of the Black Lives Matter Leeds and Guest Lecturer at the [University of Bolton](#). He is a [PRS Foundation](#) Advisor; [Music:Leeds](#) Advisor; Founder/Lead of [Paradise Hill Productions](#) and former City Commissioner/Mayor of Parsons, Kansas.

Aaron is an external director on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors; he is also one of two Vice Chairs of the Board

ALISON GUSTAVSSON

Alison is a freelance Business, Marketing and Communications Consultant with 25 years' Sales, Marketing, Communications, Branding and Operations experience, An outstanding communicator and multi-lingual, Alison's first postgraduate qualification was an MA in English and German. She then went on to study an MSc in European Resource Management. Alison's international career includes roles in industrial investment and the hospitality sector within Japan, Germany, Austria, Norway, Italy, Switzerland and most recently Harrogate, UK.

Since September 2019 Alison has been the Junior Captain in triumvir at Rudding Park Golf Club, Harrogate.

Alison is as a co-opted member of the Harrogate College Board

AMANDA WILCOX (CO-OPTEE, EXTERNAL DIRECTOR)

As University Secretary at York St John University, Dr Amanda Wilcox leads the University's corporate governance, quality assurance, academic registry and business administration, as well as student administration and support services. Amanda has responsibility for the student journey, student opportunities and experience in addition to equality, diversity and inclusion which are essential pillars of York St John's commitment to Social Justice.

Amanda joined York St John in 2018 with extensive experience in a wide variety of roles in institutions and sector bodies (including HEFCE, OfS and QAA). She has a background in academia, with a PhD in parasitology and immunology. After some time as a postdoctoral researcher, she began working in the FE sector where she spent 8 years, ultimately as Director of Higher Education for an FE college. She then moved into HE, with managerial positions including academic registrar at the University of Hull and strategic advisor for the Pro Vice Chancellors. Most recently, Amanda worked for the Office for Students (formerly Higher Education Funding Council) as Head of Student Engagement / Regional Consultant: North East, Yorkshire and the Humber.

Amanda is an external director on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors and Leeds Conservatoire Audit Committee; Amanda is also Vice Chair of the Audit Committee

ANDREW CHANG

In addition to his governance roles within Luminate Education Group, Andrew is a Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee at both Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust and The Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust. He is also a Trustee and the Honorary Treasurer of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management.

Previous senior positions held by Andrew include; Chief Internal Auditor, Yorkshire Water/Kelda Group (13 years), Audit Committee Chairman and Governor, Bradford College (10 years), Chairman, Training for Bradford Ltd (2.5 years), Trustee of Bradford Grammar School (3 years) and Governor, Hookstone Chase Community Primary School (5 years).

Andrew is a co-opted member of the Leeds City College Board and Group Audit Committee; Andrew is also Vice Chair of the Group Audit Committee

ANDREW WHITAKER

Andrew Whitaker enjoyed a ten-year career in the University sector, including working as an Associate Senior Lecturer, before moving into the 3-18 education sector as a Senior Leader.

Andrew secured the role of Executive Principal at the White Rose Academies Trust in September 2016. From the outset, his ambitions have been made clear to his staff; all of the Trust's schools will be Ofsted graded as outstanding. This achievement will ensure that the academies will provide high quality education throughout the incredible communities they serve. In December 2019 Andrew became Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the White Rose Academies Trust (WRAT). He is also a member of the Executive Leadership Team for Luminate Education Group.

Andrew was awarded a 2018 Churchill Fellowship. As an Ambassador of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, funded to spend up to 2 months abroad, fact-finding on a topic of his choice – Andrew has chosen to visit the United States of America to research Charter Schools. He will then return to the UK to share findings within his profession and community, becoming a knowledge leader and hopefully impacting on practitioners and policy makers for many years. In addition, Andrew is a Leadership Fellow of St George's House, Windsor Castle and a Fellow of the Institute of School Business Leadership.

As CEO of White Rose Academies Trust, Andrew is a member of the Trust's Board of Directors

DR ANNABEL FEEZ-SMITH

Dr Annabel Feez-Smith has been working in Education since starting teaching at Harrogate College in 2001. While working in FE she was tasked with the development and lead of a Higher Education curriculum for Fashion and related FdA and BA(Hons) courses. These proved very popular, and in collaboration with colleagues in what was the School of Art and Design, helped establish a successful HE portfolio for Harrogate College. With a broad skill base across Art & Design practice and a past career as a practicing artist and designer she had a particular interest in engaging new designers and artists in developing their entrepreneurial skills. Annabel completed a Doctorate in Design Practice in 2016 focussing on enterprise in the Art, Design and Fashion curriculum, in-line with industry concern with the business skills gap that was evident in recent graduates looking for employment.

Over time at Harrogate College, Annabel has led multiple programmes across the Art & Design curriculum and most recently, has been Programme Managing the Masters in Creative Practice.

Art and Design enterprise is still a top priority for Annabel who is keen to see all her graduates succeed as entrepreneurial art and design practitioners in the future.

Annabel is the staff member on the Harrogate College Board

ANNIE MCMASTER

Annie has worked in a variety of roles throughout her life; she began in HR and took professional qualifications in this area and then moved into performance and improvement work. She has recently retired from Leeds City Council and is therefore now able to spend more time on other activities.

Annie is a Non-Executive Director of a Housing Association Board and an active member of Soroptimist International. All her work and other interests have equality at the heart of them and she believes that education plays a significant role in people's life chances. Annie is thrilled to be able to play an active role in supporting this key area.

Annie is a member of the White Rose Academies Trust Board of Directors

BECKY HEWITT

Becky is a commercially focused HR professional with a successful track record in financial services and legal services sectors, operating across all business functions. She has extensive experience in developing and implementing HR strategy to deliver business objectives and strategic change programmes. She has several years' experience as a non-executive director in the learning sector. Becky is Director of People at Leeds Building Society.

Becky is a co-opted member of the Group Remuneration Committee

BEN SAUNDERS

Benjamin Saunders was organ scholar of Downing College, Cambridge University and Assistant Director of Music at the cathedrals of St Giles' Edinburgh, Blackburn and Chester. Since 2002 he has been Director of Music for the Diocese of Leeds, carrying overall responsibility for the largest church music programme in the UK.

Ben has been engaged by many external bodies as a consultant in the management and development of music programmes with particular expertise in fundraising and organisational structure, especially addressing access in marginalised or deprived communities. He was appointed a Director of Leeds College of Music (now Leeds Conservatoire) in 2013 and Visiting Professor of Music at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana in 2015.

As an organist, he has performed to HM the Queen, Princess Anne and US President Carter and worked with conductor Carl Davis and jazz virtuoso Dick Hyman. He has given solo organ concerts in France, Italy, Holland, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Russia and the United States and records as a soloist for Brilliant Classics and Herald AV. Ben has also been a drummer in two rock bands, keyboardist in the Edinburgh International Jazz Festival and is now studying the Classical Accordion - developing a project to introduce this new instrument to children across West Yorkshire. From January 2021 he is leading the roll out of the National Schools Singing Programme across the UK.

Ben is an external director on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors

CAROLINE GRUEN (CLLR)

Caroline has lived in Leeds all her adult life and initially trained to be a teacher at Leeds University, gaining firstly a BEd and then a MEd in Education. She went on to teach in five of the city's schools before gaining a deputy headship and then held several School Improvement posts in four different Local Authorities. Her most recent posts were as the Director of Education in Calderdale and the Head of Learning in Kirklees. She was also a Practising Lead Ofsted Inspector for ten years.

Now retired, Caroline has been a Leeds City Councillor for two years and represents the ward of Bramley and Stanningley. Her Council duties currently include sitting on the city's Scrutiny Panel for Children and Families, the Corporate Carer's Committee, and chairing the Inner West Community Committee.

Caroline continues to have an active interest in Education and has made a priority of becoming a governor in two local schools. She has a passion for children's learning and is determined to ensure that Leeds West Academy gives the very best education and life experiences to local students and their communities.

Caroline is a member of the White Rose Academies Trust Board of Directors

CAROLYN LORD

Profile coming soon...

Carolyn is an external director on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors and Leeds Conservatoire Audit Committee

CHERRY FRICKER

Cherry is Director of Finance and Operations at the National Centre for Early Music. After graduating with a music degree she qualified as a Chartered Accountant, training in the Leeds office of a national accountancy firm.

Cherry is an external director (and one of two Vice Chairs) on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors, Chair of the Leeds Conservatoire Audit Committee and a co-opted member of the Group Audit Committee

CHRIS BLYTHE

Profile coming soon...

Chris is a co-opted member of the White Rose Academies Trust Audit, Risk & Finance Committee

CHRIS MONKS

In 1977, after studying saxophone and arranging at The City of Leeds College of Music, Chris joined the Royal Exchange Theatre Company in Manchester. Following several years working as a theatre composer and musical director, in 1990 he began to direct. Through the 90's his

directing career included productions for D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, Bolton Octagon, The Belgrade, Coventry, and Salisbury Playhouse.

In 1995 he directed his reworking of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* for the New Vic, Newcastle-under-Lyme. Following its success his music theatre adaptations became an essential part of the New Vic's repertoire for over a decade, and included radical reworkings of *Die Fledermaus*, *Carmen*, and *Don Giovanni*.

In January 2009 Chris succeeded Sir Alan Ayckbourn at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough. After seven years as Artistic Director he returned to a freelance career, and now divides his time between directing drama students, mainly at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and writing plays and musicals.

Chris is an external director on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors

CLAIRE MARSH

Claire has worked at Leeds Conservatoire since 1998, and is now Head of Library Services. She has degrees in music and in information management, and became a chartered librarian in 2001. In 2019 she was given a Personal Achievement Award by the International Association of Music Librarians (UK and Ireland) for her work.

The highlight of her time at the conservatoire so far was her involvement in the creation of the new library building, when she worked closely with architects and contractors to ensure the library was the best it could be.

She is active as a musician, singing in an award-winning ladies' choir, and directing a village community choir.

In 2018 she was elected by her colleagues to serve on the conservatoire board, a role she is proud to fulfil.

Claire is the staff elected member on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors

CRAIG WILLIAMS

Craig is currently Governance Adviser and Clerk to the Corporation at two FE Colleges (one in Leeds and one in Greater Manchester) having had a variety of senior operational and strategic roles across the education and training sector. Craig has previously been on the Board of Leeds City College, Chaired Careers Yorkshire and Humber, was Vice Chair of Voluntary Action Leeds, sat on the Children's Board in Bradford and has held a range of other voluntary representative roles across education and training settings.

As an advocate of lifelong learning, Craig is passionate about supporting all young people to have the fundamental skills, attitude, passion and resilience to pursue their aspirations. Craig left school at 16 to take up an Apprenticeship with Shell UK Ltd where he secured a HTC in Plant Engineering via the vocational route and went on to secure a BA (Hons) through an FE College.

Craig is a member of the White Rose Academies Trust (WRAT) Board of Directors and WRAT Audit, Risk & Finance Committee

COLIN BOOTH OBE

Colin was appointed as Principal and CEO of Leeds City College in 2015 before the change to become Luminate Education Group. Prior to moving to Leeds, Colin was Principal of Barnsley College for seven years where he steered the college to an Ofsted rating of outstanding. He has worked in the further education sector for over 35 years; his background is as a teacher and manager in Skills for Life and provision for students with disabilities or learning difficulties. He has also worked as a part-time inspector for Ofsted and the Adult Learning Inspectorate. Colin was awarded an OBE for services to further education in the Queen's 2015 New Year Honours list.

As Group CEO Colin is a governor of the Luminate Education Group and sits on each board within the group's governance structure; he is also a member of the Finance Committee, Governance & Nominations Committee and Property Strategy Committee

DAVID STRACHAN

David is a partner at Schofield Sweeney LLP. David has been a corporate lawyer in Leeds throughout his career, advising businesses on transactions and governance issues. David attended Pocklington School and is a graduate of St Catharine's College, Cambridge University.

David's children have all passed through school and university, and he has acted for long periods as a governor of well known independent schools. He is passionately interested in education, and is delighted to be able to contribute his skills and experience to the White Rose Academies Trust Board.

David's interests are sports (especially rugby union and tennis), fell walking/trekking and 15th/16th century and modern British history.

David is a member of the White Rose Academies Trust (WRAT) Board of Directors and the WRAT Audit, Risk & Finance Committee

DAVID THORPE

David Thorpe is Chief Operating Officer for STEM Learning – an organisation that supports the teaching and learning of STEM subjects and positively impacts almost every school and college in the UK. STEM Learning's mission is to ensure a world-leading STEM education for every young person in the UK. Prior to taking this role David enjoyed a successful career as a Finance Director and a Chief Executive. He has worked in a range of industries ranging from branded fast moving consumer goods – Nivea – and in Healthcare.

David's role with STEM Learning is focused on ensuring the organisation's operational and financial performance fully supports and enhances its academic delivery. He has been instrumental in delivering the cultural change necessary to build its operating capacity throughout all regions of the country. David strongly believes that only through improvements in teaching will learning outcomes and young people's engagement and enthusiasm for STEM subjects increase.

David is a co-opted member of the Harrogate College Board

DAVID YATES

David is a retired Senior Manager with extensive skills and knowledge acquired from working in both the public and private education sectors. He has strong but flexible leadership skills which he has used throughout his career from head of an organisation to politically sensitive roles in local government.

He is committed to developing collaborative working through active and meaningful partnerships. David is passionate and committed to disability rights and especially access issues. He was Policy Leader for 16-19 education in a large metropolitan district, responsible for ensuring the local authority met its statutory responsibilities. This involved working with funding agencies to determine provision needed and advising schools and colleges on curriculum offer.

He was the lead officer dealing with reduction of those Not in Education Training or Employment. David has developed and implemented innovative ways of working e.g. Industrial Centres of Excellence and worked with partners on the development of skills strategy within the district and further afield.

David originally trained as a careers adviser and was Chief Executive of the company that delivered Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) throughout Cambridgeshire plus other education services such as learning centres, education business partnerships including the provision of work experience and placements. He advised ministers and senior civil servants on national policy issues relating to CEIAG.

David has been a Board and trust member of various organisations and undertaken consultancy activity with other educational and public sector organisations.

As a governor of the Luminate Education Group, David is Vice Chair of the Group Board, Chair of the Keighley College Board and a member of the Group Audit Committee

ELISE BROWN

Profile coming soon...

Elise is an external director on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors

ERICA HIORNS

Erica Hiorns was a teacher for twenty-five years, of which eighteen were spent in schools throughout Leeds. As such, Erica is committed to the city and to the education of the children who live in the region.

For the last eleven years of her teaching experience, Erica was a senior leader and gained skills and knowledge useful to a governing body. For the last three years she has been a school improvement adviser based at Leeds City Council, which involves working with senior teams to help schools raise attainment and provide better provision for their pupils.

Erica chose to become a governor because she wanted to learn more about the role of a governing body and because it offered the opportunity to work within an academy in Leeds rather than local authority schools. Erica also undertook some teaching practice at Leeds City Academy when it was City of Leeds School, based in the city centre, and has very fond memories of that time.

Erica believes Leeds City Academy is unlike any other school in the region, with pupils from a

wide range of nationalities and backgrounds, making it both a challenging and fascinating place to be a governor.

Erica is a member of the White Rose Academies Trust Board of Directors

HELENA PHILIPS

Helena Phillips has over 38 years' local government experience, most recently as the Chief Officer Shared Services for Leeds City Council.

Committed to providing excellent public services, Helena has led many organisational reviews and projects focussed on building strong teams, modernising working practices and delivering significant efficiencies. Having begun her career as an apprentice Helena values the opportunities all forms of learning can bring and in addition to being a trainer and staff development manager in previous roles, she has been a mentor for many years.

Helena is postgraduate qualified in Human Resource Management.

Helena is a governor of the Luminare Education Group (Group Board), Chair of the White Rose Academies Trust Board of Directors and a member of the Group Remuneration Committee

HOLLIE ARNOLD

Hollie is the Student Union President for Leeds Conservatoire Students' Union, currently in her second year in the role. During her degree in Popular Music at Leeds College of Music specialising in voice and songwriting, Hollie undertook the role of Communications Officer on the Students' Union. Following this, she was then elected as Student President in 2019 and re-elected in March 2020. Hollie has dedicated her time in this position to increasing the visibility of the Students' Union, creating a sense of community and has recently been working closely with the conservatoire to provide support for the students in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hollie has continued to perform gig work produced from her degree and hopes to continue working in student wellbeing and event management following the end of her term in June 2020.

As President of the Leeds Conservatoire Students' Union, Hollie is a member of the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors

IAN HARGREAVES

Ian was born and brought up in the Bingley area. Although a science graduate, Ian joined the NHS as a trainee accountant shortly after completing his degree in 1987. Initially based at Leeds General Infirmary, Ian moved to what is now Airedale NHS Foundation Trust in 1989 where he has worked ever since holding a senior position within the finance team for most of that time and qualifying with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) in 2002, [Member between 2002 and 2020], but is no longer a Member of the Institute.

In recent years Ian has moved out of the finance environment to work as part of the Medical Director's Unit with education very much at the heart of his portfolio. Whilst the focus of his role is predominantly on undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, Ian was instrumental in the development of a successful partnership between Airedale and Keighley College (part of the Luminare Education Group) to deliver an innovative Healthcare Support Worker Apprenticeship Programme.

Ian is a co-opted member of the Keighley College Board

IAN WATLING

Ian is a retired Finance Director with some 35 years of experience developed across a range of industries in the private sector. He has a proven ability and skills to initiate and drive change and increase the effectiveness of the enterprises for which he has worked. As Finance Director, whilst having the essential role of Corporate Finance, Team Management and Risk Management, just as important is coaching and motivating teams by being questioning and challenging to ensure critical business issues are being constantly reviewed and managed.

Since retirement in 2016, Ian has played an active role as a governor, with special emphasis on finance, to a large FE college, before joining the Luminate Education Group in June 2019. He believes that through education, individuals can enhance their 'life' chances and experiences for the better making a positive progress in and significant contribution to today's society.

As a governor of Luminate Education Group Ian serves on the Group Board, Harrogate College Board, Group Audit Committee and Chair of the Group Finance Committee

INDER HUNJAN OBE

Inder is currently working as an Independent Consultant within the Higher Education sector and local authorities. Beginning her career as a youth worker in the early 1980s and working specifically with asian girls, she was a founder member of an organisation called 'Getaway Girls' and held the position of Chairperson for over 15 years. On reflection, she left a flourishing/striving organisation that served a wide community across the city of Leeds. Getaway Girls as a provision became a massive resource for the city which specifically targeted to increase opportunities and improve the quality of life of young women.

Inder started work at Leeds Metropolitan University (now Leeds Beckett University) in 1992 as a Development Officer for Asian Women and Girls and this progressed to a complex role demanding a high-level of managerial responsibility as the Head of Access & Widening Participation. This involved taking a strategic approach to developing policies and projects to meet government targets relating to Widening Participation and Fair Access. Inder managed the University's programme of outreach activities and led on developing the University's strategy on community and regional partnerships.

Inder was recognised for her work in the field of Widening Participation and awarded an MBE in 2013 for Services to Higher Education. More recently, Inder won the Outstanding Contribution to Access Award, held at the RSA and hosted by the Rt Hon the Baroness Garden of Frognal in May 2017.

Inder is a governor of Luminate Education Group, sitting on both the Group Board and the Leeds City College Board

JAMES HADDLETON

James is the Chief Executive Officer at Haddletons, a legal and professional services company based in Harrogate. With a background as Group General Counsel and company secretary at a large pharmaceutical company and a partner at 2 large commercial law firms, James has a wide range of experience. In private practice, James has advised both HE and FE sectors with matters of governance and compliance. In public service, James has served as President of Leeds Law Society and as a member of the risk and audit committee of Leeds Community Foundation. His skill set includes leadership and consensus-building. James believes in, and

acts on, ensuring that opportunities are spread across society irrespective of background and that everyone has something to give.

James is a co-opted member of the Harrogate College Board

DR JANE PITHER

As a chartered accountant, Jane's experience has included senior management in three further education colleges as well as finance and operations roles in several private and public sector organisations. She has a wide knowledge of schools, FE and HE governance. Jane is currently undertaking a PhD in the field of comparative vocational education and training policy at the University of Huddersfield and is developing a portfolio career as a researcher. Jane has lived in Leeds for over 20 years and is passionate about improving educational opportunities for young people and adults across the city.

Jane is a governor of Luminate Education Group, sitting on both the Group Board and the Group Finance Committee

JENEF NGOMBO

Profile coming soon...

As President of the Luminate Education Group Students' Union, Jenef sits on the Leeds City College Board and is the Student Governor on the Group Board

JENNY HOY

Jenny has extensive teaching and senior academic leadership experience, most recently as Head of the Centre for Open Learning (Head of School) within the University of Edinburgh. Jenny's academic background is in Music and she will be a familiar face to many, having started her teaching career at 18 whilst she was a student at the Conservatoire, leaving in 2015 to take up her post in Edinburgh.

During what was an almost 20-year period of involvement with the Conservatoire, Jenny's influence included the early development of the Junior Conservatoire programme which continues to offer innovative provision for young musicians and which was the first in the UK to include music production as a dedicated subject area. Committed to inclusion and a firm believer in the transformative power of education, Jenny continues to perform and record as a percussionist whenever she can and has enjoyed gigs everywhere from a squat in Sheffield to the Oslo Opera House. In recent years, Jenny has recorded vibraphone on Corinne Bailey-Rae's last album, drums on a film soundtrack for Netflix, and a mixture of instruments including a plastic bag and bowed cymbals on an album as part of Beccy Owen's *Refuge* female collective. Jenny is a founding member of La Banda Europa – a 36-piece ensemble, put together to celebrate music and culture across the European continent.

Jenny is Chair of the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors and, as a governor of the Luminate Education Group, sits on the Group Board and Group Remuneration Committee

JOE WILSON

Joe Wilson's career incorporates extensive experience within the music and creative industries; not least as a founding member of the band Sneaker Pimps, but as a producer, artist and educator too. By the late 90s, Joe was an active producer for Mute Records, Creation Records and One Little Independent, and was still touring and performing with Sneaker Pimps, who by

then had sold two million records around the world. Professor Wilson moved into music education in 2010, after being recruited to design a Popular Music degree for the University of Gloucestershire, and joined Leeds Conservatoire in 2013 as Director of Curriculum. Since 2013, the training on offer has seen a huge diversification. Within four years, five courses with 900 students grew into a portfolio of 27 courses with 1300 students. Joe became Vice Principal in 2018, and is now the conservatoire's sixth Principal.

As Interim Principal of Leeds Conservatoire, Joe is a member of the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors

JOHN TOON

John is a Partner with international legal services business DWF Law LLP. He has lived and worked in and around Leeds for over thirty years and first became involved with FE and HE governance in 2006 with Doncaster College. A passionate believer in the transformative power of education, John has also been a lay trustee of Leeds Beckett Students' Union.

As a governor of Luminate Education Group John sits on the Group Board and is Chair of the Harrogate College Board and Chair of the Group Audit Committee

JONATHAN PRYOR (CLLR)

Profile coming soon...

Jonathan is a co-opted member of the Leeds City College Board

JULIE DRAKE

Julie is Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales and the Higher Education Academy. A Principal Lecturer in Accounting, specialising in auditing, Julie has led strategic initiatives in education, including the development of foundation degrees and employer engagement.

She was previously Chair of the Joseph Priestley College Board of Governors and is a member of the Financial Ethics and Governance Research Group at the University of Huddersfield.

Julie is a co-opted member of the Group Audit Committee and the Leeds Conservatoire Audit Committee

KATE GLEDHILL

Kate is an HR Director with over 30 years' experience working in the Financial Services and Manufacturing sectors. She has extensive experience of HR Policy and Practice, Employee Relations, Compensation and Benefits, Employee Development and Engagement. Since becoming a co-opted member of the Keighley College Board in 2019, she has supported the recruitment of a new Principal for the college and as an HR practitioner will always ensure that human aspects are considered in commercial decision making.

Kate is actively engaged in developing apprenticeship and internship routes for young people entering employment and believes that building strong links and understanding between schools, colleges and local employers will help to ensure young people are prepared and armed with the skills they need to enter the world of work.

Kate is a co-opted member of the Keighley College Board

KATE PEARLMAN SHAW

Kate is Leeds born and bred. She is a Clinical Psychologist who spent the first 18 years of her career working locally, with 5 years spent leading Psychology and Counselling services for adults in West Leeds, including Bramley and Rodley.

For the last 16 years Kate has worked as a Leadership Development Consultant specialising in behaviour change, supporting leaders across a wide range of organisations, both in the public and private sectors, in the UK and abroad. She uses skills drawn from the psychotherapies, neuroscience and leadership theory when working with individuals, groups, teams and boards to improve their leadership effectiveness.

Kate has experience in the FE sector, having worked with the leadership of a number of colleges and college groups. Most recently she has developed specialism in governance, supporting public sector boards. She has been the Chair of Leeds Jewish Housing Association since 2014.

Kate is delighted to be part of the White Rose Academies Trust family, especially back in West Leeds at Leeds West Academy. She is enthused by the innovative and dedicated approaches to developing young people that the WRAT philosophy brings and looks forward to a long and successful association with all at Leeds West Academy.

Kate is Vice Chair of the White Rose Academies Trust Board of Directors

KEN MORTON

Ken worked for over 30 years with Leeds City Council in Education and Children Services – latterly as Head of Service for Young People and Skills with responsibilities for Youth Services, Information, Advice and Guidance service, and the school arts and music services. Since retiring Ken has also built up a portfolio of volunteer ‘governance’ roles – in addition to his roles within the Luminate Education Group, he is Director of the Brigshaw Learning Partnership (a 6 school multi-academy trust), Governor of Springwell Leeds (an SEMH Special School), Primary School governor at Kippax Ash Tree and Hunslet St Mary’s, Trustee and Chair of YAMSEN (a small musical charity for providing inclusive opportunities for people with additional needs, and a trustee of GIPSIL which provides housing and well-being support services for young people and families in Leeds.

Ken is a governor of Luminate Education Group, serving as Vice Chair of the Group Board, Chair of the Leeds City College Board and member of the Group Finance Committee

DR LIZ MEAR

Liz is the Managing Director of Leeds Academic Health Partnership. The aim of the partnership is to drive innovation which transforms the health and wellbeing of the people of Leeds City Region and beyond. Liz is also a Non-Executive Director for Health Education England, the Senior Responsible Officer for Digital for the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Integrated Care System.

Her previous role was Chief Executive of the Innovation Agency, the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) for the North West Coast. Liz was Chair of both the national AHSN Network and Cheshire and Merseyside Comprehensive Local Research Network. She was Chief Executive of the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Director in an acute NHS Trust, a

mental health NHS foundation trust and an ambulance trust. She has also been an External Director of the Northern Health Science Alliance and a Board member of the Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership.

Liz has worked in local government, for three councils over a 17-year period, improving services and supporting customers to gain access to the whole range of council services, and as a senior management consultant for a national consultancy firm.

Liz is a co-opted member of the Leeds City College Board

LOUISE TEARLE

Louise has led the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges (WYCC) since it was first established in 2002. The West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges Ltd is a company which operates on behalf of seven further education colleges in West Yorkshire. Louise has developed collaborations between the colleges and other strategic partners and stakeholders in order to better meet the skills needs of individuals and businesses in the area. Working closely with businesses, organisations and training providers Louise has worked on projects to deliver workforce training and skills support. These programmes contribute to the economic growth of the region, tackle social mobility and connect the education and business sectors.

Louise has worked in further education for over 30 years. A graduate of University College London and member of the British Psychological Society, Louise has taught in both colleges and universities. A resident of North Yorkshire, Louise is a passionate advocate of lifelong learning and skills.

Louise is a co-opted member of the Harrogate College Board

LYDIA DEVENNY

Lydia is an experienced and commercially focused senior financial professional with a track record of strategic and operational financial management in a variety of sectors.

Lydia has held senior roles across the education and skills sector and is currently Deputy Chief Executive for Luminare Education Group, with responsibility for corporate services.

Lydia also serves on the local governing body of Oatlands Junior School in Harrogate, where she is vice chair of governors.

Lydia is a member of the White Rose Academies Trust (WRAT) Board of Directors and is Chair of the WRAT Audit, Risk & Finance Committee

MARGARET PARKES

Margaret is a graduate firstly obtaining an Economics BA Hon degree and then going on to achieve a Banking and Finance BSc Hon degree. She is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Banking and is ACIB qualified.

Margaret's career has been within the finance industry where she has worked for HSBC for over 25 years undertaking roles across the UK; starting as a management trainee, moving into various branch management roles, Operational Risk Manager, Regional Service Manager, Head of Contact Centre roles, before moving over to first direct in 2015, where she is currently Chief Operating Officer.

Margaret believes it is important for people to have the opportunity to develop to be the best that they can and is excited to be a part of an Academies Trust which is passionate about all students and staff achieving their full potential.

Margaret is a member of the White Rose Academies Trust Board of Directors

MARK GARRATT

Mark has spent over 30 years in marketing and CRM in a variety of high profile private and public sector organisations worldwide. In his early years, he was Marketing Director for Principality Building Society in Wales and Head of Customer Management for Royal & Sun Alliance (responsible for leading customer management for the launch of MORETH>N Insurance), before running his own CRM consultancy, helping over 35 companies worldwide to develop effective customer management practices.

He was instrumental in setting up Confused.com, the UK's first ever insurance aggregator, before taking up a senior interim management career with organisations such as the Open University, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Yell Group, British Airways and Barnardo's. Since June 2013, he has been Director of External Affairs for the University of Bradford. He is also a board member of Bradford UNESCO City of Film and an advisory board member of the Bradford Literature Festival.

Mark is a co-opted member of the Leeds City College Board

MATT FINDULL

Matt is an experienced public sector manager with extensive experience of working in the education and skills sector. Formerly with the Learning and Skills Council, Matt is now with Bradford Council. He has considerable experience as a governor in secondary and primary schools in Bradford.

Matt is a co-opted member of the Keighley College Board

NICOLAS CROCKER

Nic Crocker has had over 35 years' experience as a real estate lawyer in large National and International law firms, representing clients in a wide range of industries and sectors. He also had 30 years in partner roles with various leadership and training responsibilities, most recently as Senior Partner for the Leeds office of what is now a fully listed PLC and prior to that as National Head of Real Estate and an Executive Board member of that business. Nic is also a member of the Management Committee of Leeds Action to Create Homes (LATCH), which provides housing and support to those otherwise facing homelessness in Leeds and also training for people wanting to get experience towards a job/apprenticeship in housing.

Nic is a co-opted member of the Group Property Strategy Committee

NAZ KAZMI

Naz has lived in Keighley for most of her life and has 30 years' experience of working with BME women and children, particularly from a south Asian background.

Naz has worked closely with communities and organisations designing, developing and delivering innovative programmes and research projects. These projects have focused on addressing social inequalities, which overlap with health, environmental behaviours, education and employment.

Her hobbies are travelling, poetry and fine arts.

Naz is a co-opted member of the Keighley College Board

PAUL HOLLINS

Paul is Professor of Cultural Research Development for the Arts and Management at the University of Bolton and is Fellow of the Cybernetics Society. He has written extensively on themes of music and musical subcultures and education technology. His current work is focussed on deindustrialisation and music, more specifically on electronic music in Yorkshire. For over a decade Paul directed the Jisc national innovation support, the Centre for Educational Technology and Interoperability Standards (CETIS) and has extensive experience of Higher Education (HE), HE governance and management. His Phd was focussed on the efficacy of immersive environments in formal educational settings.

Paul is an external director on the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors

PAUL MORRISSEY

Paul was educated at a comprehensive school in County Durham and then went on to study History at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. He also has a P.G.C.E from the University of Nottingham and a M.A. in History from the University of Huddersfield. Paul has also achieved the National Professional Qualification for Headship.

Paul's career has seen him work in education in West Yorkshire for the last thirty-four years and he has fulfilled many different roles during that period of time including Head of Department, Head of Faculty, Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. He has worked in a wide variety of schools including those in challenging circumstances and a number of high achieving schools as well. Before his retirement Paul was Headteacher at Guiseley School in Leeds for the last eleven years. He has also been Executive Headteacher of two schools in special measures during this period of time. Paul is also a former Ofsted inspector.

Paul has been on a number of governing bodies in the past and is very keen to support the further development of Leeds City Academy on its journey to outstanding. He is fully committed to ensuring the best possible opportunities for students and staff in all schools in the White Rose Academies Trust.

Paul is currently working as a leadership consultant and on a part-time PhD in History at the University of Huddersfield.

Paul is a member of the White Rose Academies Trust Board of Directors

PHIL BROWN

Phil is the CEO and founder of the Absolute Commercial Interiors Group, which has gained an enviable reputation for design, quality and delivery. He has a proven track record at the helm of numerous successful businesses over the last 20 years and firmly believes in the development of others within his organisations. He is an apprentice trained joiner, who continued his

education via Leeds College of Building ending with HNC in Building Studies and membership of the Institute of Building.

Phil is mentor to colleagues and a number of fledgling businesses. Phil enjoys sharing his experience of successes and more importantly his experience of failures.

Phil is a co-opted member on the Harrogate College Board

RICHARD SHAW

Richard Shaw is an Operations Director for Mace Group, a leading international construction and consultancy company. Richard leads the consultancy business within Yorkshire and the North East supporting clients in the planning and delivery of property and construction projects across a range of sectors. He is a Chartered Civil Engineer and qualified Project Manager (PRINCE2 and APM) with a passion for developing others through mentoring, coaching and engagement across the wider skills agenda.

As Chair of the Luminate Group's Property Strategy Committee he brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the strategic planning of real estate portfolios and in the planning, management and delivery of construction projects. Richard is also a Trustee of the Hunslet Club in Leeds.

Richard is a governor of Luminate Education Group, sitting on the Group Board, Group Finance Committee and is Chair of the Group Property Strategy Committee

RICKIE WILSON

Rickie has been teaching in a Harrogate secondary school for 13 years, taking on a range of roles including class teacher, Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Head teacher. Educated to degree level in Sport and Exercise Science, Rickie has also gained a wealth of experience teaching in other vocational areas such as Business Studies, Travel and Tourism, Public Services and Health and Social Care. During his time as a senior leader, he has developed knowledge of a range of areas such as quality assurance processes, appraisal, self-evaluation, Ofsted inspections, budgeting and safeguarding procedures. Rickie is passionate about ensuring a breadth of high quality provision and opportunities for young people across the Harrogate district.

Rickie is a co-opted member of the Harrogate College Board

ROBERT SLADDIN

Robert is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Until retiring in 2010, he was Director of Estates at the University of Leeds where he spent the major part of his professional career. He now works as a consultant.

Robert is currently Chairman of Leeds Innovation Centre and a Director of Unipol Student Homes. He has previously served as Chairman of Leeds and Yorkshire Housing Association from 2011-14 and as a Governor of Leeds City College, Leeds College of Music and Leeds Trinity University.

Robert is now a co-opted member of the Luminate Group's Property Strategy Committee

DR SHAID MAHMOOD

A former governor at local primary and high schools and with over 20 years' of governance experience in further education, more recently, as Chair of the Board of the Luminare Education Group, Shaid has worked in a diverse range of senior roles in science and industry and the public sector. Committed to making a positive difference to the lives of others and hugely passionate about further education, Shaid has worked nationally and internationally, led the integration of public services and worked closely with business, the third sector and with local and national politicians.

Shaid is also the Chair of the National Association of Colleges, a Chief Officer at Leeds City Council - designing and leading transformation programmes - and an associate trustee of Leeds United Football Club Foundation.

As a governor and Chair of the Luminare Education Group, Shaid is also Chair of the Group's Governance & Nominations Committee, a member of the Group Finance Committee and Group Remuneration Committee and is a member of the Leeds Conservatoire Board of Directors

STELLA OWEN

Profile coming soon...

Stella is a co-opted member of the Leeds City College Board

STEVEN BURLES

Steven is the CEO and Founder of Puddle. A graphic designer by trade, Steven started his career with renowned design agency Attik working on campaigns for Nike, Sony and MTV. After several years working for other Leeds based design agencies, in 2010 Steven formed Puddle, offering on and offline marketing services to businesses in the UK and the US. He is the Co-Founder and Chairman of the Keighley & Airedale Business Awards and a member of the Business Advisory Committee for Project Search in Bradford whose aim is to help young adults with learning difficulties gain employment. Steven is also an Enterprise Advisor for the LEP and is working with schools to bring local businesses and students closer together.

Steven is a co-opted member of the Keighley College Board

TREVOR WATSON

Trevor has worked in local government for over thirty years. He has been responsible for a wide range of services throughout his career but always with Economic Growth and Planning at their core having led directorates incorporating these disciplines at Teesdale DC, Ashfield DC and Scarborough BC, joining Harrogate Borough Council as Director of Economy and Culture in 2017.

Trevor recognises with enthusiasm the exciting opportunities that there are within the district and wider region to drive forward and deliver economic growth and was pleased to join the board of Harrogate College in 2019, recognising that education of the area's young talent is critical to driving economic prosperity. He is committed to influencing and informing qualification and training provision to maximise inward investment and ensure the skill sets match the economic growth aspiration and potential of business and industry.

Trevor is a co-opted member of the Harrogate College Board