



The Learning for Life Partnership

Working in partnership to improve life chances and education for all

Pen Portraits of Members and Trustees

Members

- Andy Hodgkinson
- Mike Finney
- Alison Greatbanks
- Anita Miller
- Lisa Hodgkison

Trustees

- John Clough
- Mike Finney
- Simon Kidwell
- David Marren
- Sharon Dempsey
- Alison Greatbanks
- Nicholas Adams
- Rangeeta Bhamra
- Lisa Colclough

Andy Hodgkinson



Andy has worked across a range of educational contexts supporting multi-agency partnerships, local government strategy and primary, secondary and adult learning phases

with system leadership, strategic planning and transformation. He is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and The RSA where he is network lead for their Innovative Education Network.

John Clough



John, who is the Chair of the Trust, is a retired chartered accountant with many years' experience in the provision of audit, accountancy and business advisory services to a wide range of clients. Up to his retirement John was a partner in a 'top ten' firm of chartered accountants, based in Stoke-on-Trent. John has also been involved throughout his career on a voluntary basis with a number of public and charitable bodies. He was a director of the UK national management company of his firm, and was also the treasurer and past president of the North Staffs Society of Chartered Accountants.

Until recently he was a Lay member and Vice Chair of the Governing body of an NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and a trustee of a support charity based in Crewe.

In his NHS role he was also Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and has considerable experience in governance both within this position and in previous roles in the public sector.

Born and educated in Blackpool, John moved to West Yorkshire after qualifying and became a partner in a Leeds based firm which then merged with a national practice. He also spent some time in the North East before moving to Cheshire in 1993.

Mike Finney MBE



Mike has recently retired from his role as Director of Admissions, Advice and Marketing at Cheshire College South and West College, where he worked since January 1983, initially in a teaching capacity, before moving into various management roles.

As part of his role he undertook training and regular updates related to current issues, such as 'Prevent' / Data protection and Safeguarding, along with management responsibilities including Event Management, Human resources/ Finance / Organisational Development and Performance Management and continues to attend regular training.

He was also responsible for the college student transport system involving transporting over 1,000 students from across Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire to the college's three campuses. He has had considerable budget responsibility across all areas.

Mike's passion is to ensure the best possible educational experience for young people and has committed his working life to ensuring this passion impacts positively. Mike is also a Governor at Middlewich High School with over 25 years' service.

Mike has been a Board member of the LFLP Trust since its inception and was awarded an MBE for 'Services to Education' in 2018.

Anita Miller



After obtaining a BSc (Hons) Anita started working life as a computer programmer before moving across to the user side and worked in the commercial sector for over 20 years. She

was ultimately responsible for Customer Services, Telesales and Credit Control in a large FMCG company. After taking redundancy she took up voluntary work for the RSPCA, Guide Dogs and joined the board at a local housing association spending the maximum 9 years there, where she gained strong governance skills. Building on these skills she has joined the board at a local charity - End of Life Partnership. She did obtain some exposure to the education sector on a board at a local primary school. She enjoys relaxing with her retired guide dog, reading, crocheting and taking holidays and mini-breaks with family and friends.

Lisa Hodgkison

After experiencing such a wonderful High school Education, I wanted to give back to society the support and help that I received to achieve my own personal goals and dreams. I was 20 when I qualified as a teacher and started my career in a challenging Secondary School teaching ICT and become the Head of Department after my NQT year. After three years an opportunity arose to work delivering the DfE's National Strategies. This opportunity gave me experiences working in a range of schools across the Local Authority, it was during this time I took a particular interest in special needs. Whilst carrying out this role I realised how much I missed my own classroom and school environment. I was successful in securing an Assistant Headship at Springfield School, a school for children with a range additional needs. I held this position for 9 years until I was fortunate enough to be made Headteacher in 2016. My passion lies with giving every child equal opportunities regardless of their disability. Springfield School is a large special school catering for pupils with a wide range of needs including, moderate, severe and profound learning difficulties, Autism and pupils with challenging behaviour. My work within the Trust comes with an interest in Special Education within both the mainstream and resource provision environment. It is a great pleasure working with such an inclusive trust.

Sharon Dempsey

Sharon has over 40 years' experience in leading IT and business transformations and has managed her own consultancy company for nearly 30 years. Sharon is expert on IT, Finance and Data, and is Director of Data and Search for the Parliamentary Digital Service leading on the development of Digital: Data and infrastructure services. The COVID pandemic has driven a lot of digital demand in Parliament and Sharon is proud of her role in adapting the technology and systems used by Parliament to keep democracy afloat and with more strategic improvements in the pipeline. Sharon is also a Trustee/Chair of Audit for The Learning Alliance and mentors a Social Enterprise focussed on the BAME community in Manchester. After graduation with a BSc (hons) in Applied Mathematics and Computer Studies, Sharon taught in inner London for 3 years before moving to a role in IT in industry. Throughout Sharon's career, she has been responsible for the training and mentorship of many colleagues and seeing them progress and succeed is something she takes great pride in. Sharon is a STEM Ambassador and tries to put the fun into Maths and IT by supporting STEM activities across the region.

RANGEETA BHAMRA

Rangeeta Bhamra has over 20 years' experience working within the Public sector. Rangeeta is the owner and founder of Nursing Zone a leading recruitment agency that supplies Nursing staff to the NHS and Private Sector across nationally. Rangeeta is also an experienced consultant who offers her expertise in Recruitment, Human Resources, Auditing, Hospital management and Transformation Management.

Prior to running her own company, Rangeeta worked for large Corporate companies in London providing recruitment services within Healthcare, Social Care and Education. Rangeeta's achievements here involved winning multimillion pound tenders, managing acquisitions, achieving highest ratings with CQC/Ofsted, TV appearances and featured in a variety of news publications.

Rangeeta is currently working on a new project which involves mentoring and training others who wish to set up their own business.

Rangeeta joined the LFLP board in 2018 and uses her expertise to support Board development.

David Marren



My name is David Marren. In May 2011 and 2015, I was elected as a Cheshire East Councillor representing Haslington ward but in 2019, I was able to switch wards and was fortunate enough to be elected as a Cheshire East Councillor to represent Shavington electoral ward, which is where I live. As a Cheshire East Councillor, my main interest has been in the Council's governance.

I am also a Nantwich Town Councillor representing Nantwich South and have been, continuously, since 2011. Since 1988 I have been a Magistrate on the South Cheshire Bench.

I have worked in local government for well over 45 years. For 9 years, up to 2009, I was an Executive Director of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council where I was one of the Council's Strategic Management Team of 3. I also had responsibility for more than half the Council's staff delivering front-line services which included refuse collection and recycling; town centre management; the cemeteries and crematorium; street scene services; the theatre; markets;

the Civic Hall; swimming pools; leisure centres; grounds maintenance, parking and community wardens.

Nick Adams

Nick is the son of a Geordie mineworker who now lives in Sandbach, having moved from Congleton 3 years ago. He has 4 children, 2 girls and 2 boys, and 2 gorgeous grandchildren. He is a firm believer in not allowing children to be put in a box but instead giving them the support and opportunity to grow. Nick is an active member of New Life Church in Congleton, where he led the creation of The Storehouse. Over the years Nick has developed a keen interest in and supported:

- Children with physical and mental challenges in the slums of Kolkata (The Roy Trust)
- The educational and vocational aspirations of Long-Term prisoners (Hardman Trust)
- Helping Frail and Elderly people live more independent lives (Technology for Need)

Nick is a highly successful business professional whose 30 plus year career has been built on a platform of integrity combined with strategic and commercial management. Nick is passionate about and expert in relationship management, with a proven track record of creating enduring strategic relationships with leaders in both the public and private sectors. He's persuasive and a diplomatic leader able to effectively communicate across organisational and cultural boundaries, coaching teams to get the very best performance and position the business for growth. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Sales Management.

Lisa Colclough



Originally, I grew up in Barrow-in-Furness, on the coast and near to the Lake District. After leaving school I worked in a bank and a library, before deciding that teaching was what I wanted to do! Over 20 years later, I still love teaching!! My passion is being creative with the curriculum using Art and Music through other subjects. I also work for the University of Chester mentoring trainee teachers. When I am not working, I love spending time with my family and friends locally and throughout the British Isles. It's great to get outdoors and explore! Listening to music, cooking and reading are also high on my priority list when relaxing.

Alison Greatbanks



Solicitor and partner in the firm of Hall Smith Whittingham Solicitors Crewe. Qualified since February 2002 and has experience in dealing with commercial contracts, commercial litigation, domestic conveyancing prior to specialising in private client work which, covers dealing with: Wills, Probates, Trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Court of Protection Application, Challenging Care fees, Inheritance Tax Planning and General Elderly client issues.

Alison has been a member of the Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE) since 2007 and has achieved the Older Client Care in Practice Accreditation and has vast experience in dealing with vulnerable clients. She is also a committee member of the Staffordshire and Cheshire Branch of SFE.

As part of her management role within the firm she is responsible for dealing with IT issues including cyber security issues, involvement in the training of trainee solicitors and dealing with the other partners dealing with regulatory issues affecting the operation of the firm.

Alison has, since 2013, been involved in The End of Life Partnership and is Vice Chair of the Financial Housing Keeping Group. The group as part of the Cheshire Living Well Dying Well public health initiative are involved in community events and as an ambassador of the scheme run workshops in for the community. The workshops give help and advice in regard to wills, LPA's and Care Issues.