



Governing Body Profiles

David Hall Chair of Governors (Portfolio Holder for Teaching and Learning Chair: Academy Improvement Board)



David is Head of Leisure, Strategy and Transformation with Northumbrian Water Group, recently crowned the leading utility company in the UK. David has over twenty years experience in school governance at primary and secondary school level as well as extensive experience of Northumberland's three tier system.

In 2008 he led the first IEB in Northumberland. David led the reorganisation of the school leadership team as well as a transition from First to Primary status during the period in which the school was the subject to special measures. During this time he also led a £1.8m refurbishment programme for the school. After a strategic review of leadership, the school emerged from Special Measures in just eight months, with outstanding leadership and management. In 2011 his leadership and that of the IEB was commended in an Ofsted Best Practice Report into outstanding school governance. David continues to lead governance at the school which has gone from below floor targets to over the national and LA average for KS4 combined results in just three years with 100% of disadvantaged students making expected progress in all areas.

At the same time that David led the IEB, he also led the formation Northumberland's first 9-19 all through Federation combining two middle schools and a high school, involving significant consultation on school closures and improvement strategy.

In his substantive role David leads organisational strategy and major change projects for Northumbrian Water Group; he has a staff team of over 100 and manages departmental budgets of over £20m. He is a Civil Engineer by profession and holds a Masters degree in Leadership and Management and is one of the first non-QTS in the country to hold NPQH.

David is holds a number of Non-Exec positions including Northumberland Tourism (delivering ad £40m increase in the county's economy) and is about to join the board of a national examinations awarding body.

Dorothy Smith (Vice Chair: Portfolio Holder for Disadvantaged Students and Post 16)



Dorothy is currently a consultant working with Northern Education with a particular focus on post-sixteen curriculum and performance. In summer 2013 she left her full-time position in the Department for Education, where she was the Education Funding Agency's 16-19 territorial director for the north of the country (North East, North West, Yorkshire & the Humber). This role involved responsibility for a multi-million pound allocations budget to fund 16-19 provision in SFCs, GFEs, sixth forms and commercial/charitable providers; as well as leading intervention action in respect of SFCs following Inadequate Ofsted inspections.

Prior to this she was the north east 16-19 director in the Young People's Learning Agency, with a national role in the development of provision and in capital funding. Dorothy's YPLA role followed 10 years in senior positions in the Learning & Skills Council, latterly as acting regional director for the North East.

Before her work with these funding agencies she spent 16 years in general further education colleges as teacher, cross-college curriculum leader and director of curriculum developments.

Tony Webster (Portfolio Holder for School Improvement)



I have worked in various secondary schools and was a Headteacher of a Northumberland High School judged to be outstanding. I have worked in industry and higher education as a SIP and National Challenge Adviser. Areas of expertise include planning and development and Post 16 education

Kay Pinchard: Portfolio Holder for Finance



As an accountant I have had a 30 year plus career within local government finance. I started as a graduate trainee accountant in 1976 and retired from my post as Assistant City Treasurer and Deputy Section 151 Officer with Newcastle City Council in December 2009. During my career I gained experience of all aspects of financial management. I believe that good financial management plays a key role in ensuring that an organisation can achieve its objectives.

Operating at a senior level within a complex organisation has given me extensive experience in the fields of option appraisals, structural reviews, risk management and many aspects of HR. In addition to this I am familiar with inspection regimes having played leading roles in Best Value Reviews, and Comprehensive Performance Assessments.

During the 1990s I was heavily involved with the implementation of Local Management of Schools. This experience gave me great insight into the issues faced by schools.

On a personal level over the years I have been a parent governor and a treasurer to a PTA.

Pam Brown:



Retired Teacher and Local Magistrate

Rachel Johnson: Staff Governor



I joined the Blyth Academy in September 2011 as a newly Qualified PE teacher. My professional qualifications include Junior sports Leadership Award, Great Britain Boxing Tutor and Great Britain Boxing tutor award. I am currently Head of Year 10 students

Parent Governor:

Jill Blackburn



The area that interests me most in becoming a parent governor at The Blyth Academy is behaviour and student well-being, as this is where my experience lies. With the relatively recent conversion to an Academy I am interested in how the school is managing to turn things around. There are already many improvements at the school as evidenced from interim Ofsted reports and I would welcome the opportunity to be involved in shaping the future of the school while it continues to improve.

I have worked for 6 years at Cramlington Learning Village as a Pastoral Co-ordinator sharing a year group with a teaching member of staff. I have responsibility for managing the behaviour of students in my care and working on strategies to help students improve their behaviour.

Prior to this I worked at Churchill Community College in Wallsend as the Behaviour and Educational Support Team (BEST) Manager. Again my role was around using various strategies to help improve behaviour within the school.

I also have several years experience as a school governor; I have been staff governor at Cramlington Learning Village for the past 3 years and was staff governor my previous school. This has provided me with the knowledge of what is expected from a Governor to help support the management of the school.