



## **Meet our Members and Trustees**

### **Trustees**

#### **Linda Wright**

Linda has over 30 years' experience in senior leadership and advisory roles in the inclusive education sector, including international projects and teacher training. She has delivered transformation of services for young people with SEND, notably the expansion of SEN school places through major capital programmes and establishing the award winning South London SEN commissioning Partnership of 15 South London boroughs.

#### **Nadia Abdullah**

Nadia has worked in the design of school buildings for over 17 years. She has been an architect for Cazenove Architects, an associate for Curl la Tourelle Head Architecture, and associate again for Baxter Studio. Additionally, she has been involved in the design of special school buildings for 10 years.

#### **Robin Bishop**

Robin is a retired Architect having worked in educational design for the last 30 years. He worked for the Department of Education and Skills, Effective Learning Environments, and more recently for Curl la Tourelle. He has contributed to raising design standards for different educational environments such as premises for nurseries, schools, colleges, and alternative provisions.



### **Laurence Nesbitt (Chair of Trustees)**

Laurence has worked as director and IT director at several companies including Combined Insurance Limited and Millfield Group plc. He has significant Senior Management and Board level experience including serving on Risk and Business Transformation Committees.

### **Stuart Roden**

Until January 2019 Stuart was Chairman of Lansdowne Partners and Chairman of the Management Committee having previously co-managed the Developed Markets funds since their inception in 2001. Stuart started his career in the City in 1984, joining SG Warburg & Co. He worked at McKinsey and prior to joining Lansdowne in 2001, was a Managing Director of Merrill Lynch Investment Managers. Stuart is non-Executive Chairman of Tresidor Investment Management, Chairman of the 1-Up Foundation and a Trustee of various third sector organisations including The Centre for Social Justice and Jewish Care. He is also the non-executive Chairman of the Investment Committee of Marylebone Partners LLP and Chairman of the Jewish Care and Oxford Centre for Jewish and Hebrew Studies Investment Committees. Stuart received a first-class honours degree in Economics (BSc) from the London School of Economics, he is married with four children and lives in London.

### **Victoria Blakeman**

Victoria is Executive Director of Offender Management for Prospects Services responsible for securing and managing the organisation in-custody provision. She is a Senior Consultant providing her services to International Governments and Private/Public Sector organisations. Victoria has extensive experience of working in conflict fragile countries.



## **Katie Lancaster**

Katie is a specialist in employment law with extensive experience advising organisations on a wide range of employment and safeguarding matters, as well as acting for individuals and families. She is widely recognised for her expertise working with high-profile sports bodies and with schools, particularly those educating pupils with complex needs. She is a partner at Farrer & Co. Katie is a Member of the board of the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools, a Member of the board for the Boarding Schools Association, and a Trustee for the Royal Victoria Hall Foundation, a grant-giving charity focused on engaging children and non-traditional audiences with the Theatre.

## **Members**

### **Professor Pat Sikes**

Pat is a professor in Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Sheffield. She has particular interest in sociological approaches to research, including life history and autoethnography. Pat was awarded the John Nisbet Fellowship by the British Educational Research Association for outstanding contribution to education research. Pat is a School Governor at Worksop College.

### **John Herring**

John is Admissions and Planning Manager at Cressy College, an independent special school for students with social, emotional and attachment difficulties. He is experienced in school planning and managing intakes. John has extensive experience at a managerial level both in the public and private sector. Having had a long and successful career in the Royal Marines John has extensive experience of managing people and leading teams of 30 to 300, of building relationships with diverse cultures, of finding diplomatic and pragmatic solutions to the unexpected, and of designing and delivering training to meet new challenges.



### **Alex Cisneros**

Alex is a specialist public law and private client barrister. His practice covers a wide variety of contexts concerning mental capacity, healthcare and education. He acts in SEN Tribunals, school admission appeals and disciplinary appeals. Alex is on the committee of the Court of Protection Bar Association and is a Trustee of the Centre for Young Musicians, a division of the Guildhall School of Music. Alex is a Bar Council social mobility advocate.

### **Richard Gadd**

Richard is an Executive Head Teacher in East London for the Kedlestone Group and has been in school leadership since 2001 in Special schools. Richard has considerable experience of leading schools and school governance. He is qualified PQSI in school inspection.

### **Jonathan Dall**

Jonathan has considerable experience working in Local Authority School Client support in project management and Capital Delivery. He has a breadth of knowledge and attention to detail which ensures compliance. He is currently working in Project Management for Brighton and Hove City Council delivering a £5m restoration of Stanmer Park.