

London & South East Education Group

The London & South East Education Group (LSEEG) is the umbrella organisation that has been established to optimise collaboration and integration between the further and higher education activities of London South East Colleges (LSEC) and the school education activities of London South East Academies Trust (LSEAT).

The College and the MAT each retain their legal status of an independent charitable organisation, pursuing its charitable objects for the public benefit, which is subject to distinct regulation and law. The College and MAT Governing Boards have determined that, for the benefit of the Learners and Pupils and by extension for the public benefit, it is desirable to maximise their strategic and operational integration and for this purpose to maximise the alignment of their respective decision-making processes, in pursuit of the common charitable objects. On this basis they agreed to establish the “London and South East Education Group Board” (“the Group Board”), as a joint co-ordinating, governance committee.

The **Group Board** is Chaired by **Stephen Howlett, CBE, DL**. Its members comprise the Chair of the Trust, Mark Burnett, and Chairs of each of the Group Committees, namely, David Eastgate, Allan Carey, Mark Trinick and Christopher Philpott. In addition the Group Board has five independent **Group Advisors** who do not serve on the Independent Boards, but provide a significant wealth of expertise and strategic experience on public sector, education and policy matters.

The Group Board convenes three times a year.

Group Board Advisors

Jacky Tiotto; Jacky was appointed to the Group Board in 2018, having served as a Governor on the LSEC Corporation. Jacky is the current CEO of CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) and the former Director of Children’s Services for London Borough of Bexley, leading the directorate to Ofsted Outstanding in July 2018. Jacky has significant experience of safeguarding and child protection, having previously held senior positions with Ofsted, the Department for Education where she was the Senior Deputy Director for safeguarding and child protection. Starting her career as a social worker in 1989, she has worked for many London local authorities before becoming national adviser for children and adult services for the local government association and senior specialist for social care, education and health at the Audit Commission. Jacky is the **Group Lead on Safeguarding and the Chair of the Group Safeguarding Committee**.

Marek Michalski: Marek has extensive experience in the private sector and held various management positions in a global telecoms company. He subsequently moved to the public sector where he works as a civil servant for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Marek has served two terms of office on the LSEC Corporation and has been involved in College Governance since 2010. He is also a Member of London South East Academies Trust. He has experience of project and programme management, financial management, policy delivery, business planning and management, commercial management, audit and risk management, and overseeing major transformation programmes. Marek is **Chair of the Group Audit and Risk Committee**.

Warwick Sharp: Warwick joined the Group Board in 2019, when he was the Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Education and has served three Education Secretaries whilst working for the DfE. He is currently the Director of Academies and Maintained Schools at the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Warwick has ten years experience in education policy and has written a book called “The Educated Guess” about inevitable biases in the choices we make about education. Warwick started his career as a teacher in secondary education. He is the **Group Lead Governor for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**.

Teresa Kelly, OBE: Teresa joined the Group Board at the beginning of 2021. Since 2017 she worked as the Deputy FE Commissioner, a post she held until her recent retirement at the end of 2020. Prior to this she was Principal and CEO for 11 years at Abingdon and Witney College in Oxfordshire, where she led the merger with the Oxfordshire Adult Education Service and also led on the formation of the first college sponsored Multi Academy Trust to focus on special schools. Under her leadership the college achieved an outstanding judgement for leadership and management and was awarded the Queens Anniversary prize in 2016. Teresa started her career working in special schools in the Midlands before moving into FE. She also worked as an OFSTED Associate Inspector for 10 years. She was awarded an OBE in 2013 for services to the further education sector and for services to young adults with learning difficulties.

Steve Besley: Steve joined the Group Board in January 2021. Steve is the former Head of Policy at Pearson Education, where over 20 years ago he developed Policy Watch a publication reporting on all things education. Since leaving Pearson’s Steve has continued to publish Education Eye independently which covers all the latest policy updates, stories and speeches and reports across the entire education landscape, Schools, FE and Higher Education. Steve is a member of the Leaders’ Institute and a Reader for the Queen’s Anniversary Prizes for FE and HE.

Jennifer Pharo is the **Group Executive Director of Governance**, and the **Clerk to the LSEC Corporation, Trust Board and Company Secretary**. Jenny provides governance, legal and regulatory advice and guidance directly to the GroupBoard, ensuring the Board operates within the approved Scheme of Delegation. She provides technical, practical and organisational expertise in supporting both the Group Board, Group Advisors and Executive Leaders on all governance matters relating to the operations and development of London & South East Education Group.