

Early Years and Schools Forum

Pen Portraits

Andy Palmer – Chilwell Schools

I have been a Governor at Chilwell School for the last couple of years and previous to that was Governor / Director at another Nottinghamshire School.

In my professional life I typically run Adult and Apprenticeship Training Providers including having run the largest provider of Adult Skills Training and Apprenticeships in the Country. In these roles I have taken 3 organisations to a Grade 1 Outstanding from Ofsted. I also undertake due diligence on education and training providers as part of mergers and acquisitions.

I am a former Non-Exec Board Member at Ofsted and a member of Edexcel's Standards and Qualifications Committee as well as the CBI's HR Advisory Board. I have appeared in front of a number of Parliamentary Select Committees in relation to Education and Skills

I have two daughters (one year 8 and one year 5).

Geoff Young – Gateford Park

I have been a Governor at Gateford Park Primary School for over 14 years and for the last 4 years as Chair of the Governing Body.

During these 14 years I have been the chair of the finance committee, something I find very rewarding as when I started in the role we were in a deficit budget, however for the last 10 years we have remained in a budget with excess finances. I would relish the opportunity of joining the Schools Forum and believe I could make a positive contribution.

Julian White – Clarborough

I'm an experienced governor of around 18 years (parent/co-opted) and have chaired governing bodies at both primary and secondary schools. I'm currently a co-opted governor at Clarborough Primary School where I was chair for eight years. I am a member of the Elizabethan Academy Trust in Retford and I've chaired the board of Governors at Queen Elizabeth's High School in Gainsborough for the past five years.

I have led the recruitment process for Headteacher appointment at primary and secondary level. As chair I have been involved in Ofsted inspections and monitoring visits with Good and Outstanding outcomes. I have experience of securing capital funding, conducting complex complaint investigations and have chaired numerous panels (complaints, staff disciplinary and pupil expulsion).

The reason I'm enthusiastic about governance is the impact we can have on the safety, welfare and achievement of students in our care and the working environment for staff.

Michael Davis – Newland Juniors & Forest Town

I have been a governor for approximately 15 years, in both Academy and Maintained sectors. For the past 8 years I have been a Chair of Governors in West Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. I'm dedicated to supporting schools in making rapid governance improvements and being an experienced Head of HR usually means I see things from several business perspectives. I currently work as a HR Manager, HR Director and independent HR Consultant mostly across West Yorkshire public and third sector provisions.