

MEET THE MEMBERS



Stephen Bradshaw (MSc in Education; BPhil in Autism)

Chair of Learn@ Multi-Academy Trust and a Member. Committees: Chairs Committee and able to attend all Trust Committees and Academy Councils

Married with five children and nine grandchildren. He has dedicated his life to education and opened the first specialist College for Asperger's Syndrome at Farleigh Hungerford in September, 1996, and followed this with the first specialist post 16 FE College in 2000. He has since been the Director of Schools Development for the Priory, where his success led to him being offered a seat on the Board of Priory as Director of Education and Development and later Managing Director of Priory Education Services. He went on to lead them in opening special schools around the World, including Boston, USA, and Singapore. After being the Managing Director of the Cambian Schools between 2013 -15, he was a co-founder of 'The Aurora Group', and built it up to 13 provisions by 2018. He has since stepped down from this demanding work and offers coaching to school leaders his book, 'Asperger's Syndrome, That Explains Everything', was published in 2012 and highlights his model of successfully running schools for young people with Autism.



Ian McGregor (appointed 1 September 2017)

Was born in Glasgow is married and have two daughters and five grandchildren. He worked in Glasgow for Honeywell Controls and Rest Assured. In 1981 he relocated to Bristol where he spent 34 years working for Imperial Tobacco now called Imperial Brands, as General Manager in logistics. He was responsible for a budget of 15 -20 million £s over various locations worldwide, up to 40 managers and 2000+ employees and numerous logistics partners. Ian retired early from Imperial tobacco in 2004. Ian was governor and chair of finance for KnowLEDGE for almost 5 years during the transition from Florence Brown School to KnowLEDGE.



Deirdre Fitzpatrick (appointed 28 November 2017)

Deirdre is currently Director of Education for 'I CAN', the National Charity which supports children with communication difficulties. The charity runs two special schools and a large social enterprise providing training and resources to support students with speech and language difficulties. Deirdre is also an Ofsted inspector and a school improvement partner. She currently sits on the executive of Swals (South West Alliance Of Leaders in Special Schools) and is asked to speak on leadership at numerous conferences. In the recent past she has also been a Department of Education Advisor, Headteacher and Senior Advisor for Mainstream and Special Schools in a Local Authority. Deirdre has two children and lives at home in Swindon, Wiltshire, with her husband and dog, Bob.



Margaret Tanner (Appointed 28 November 2018)

After graduating from Bristol University in 1966 Margaret completed her PGCE in Cardiff where she remained for a year working in a secondary school with less able students. Margaret moved to Florence Brown School in Bristol working with young people aged between 5 and 8 years old. In 1984 Margaret set up a Learning Support Unit for primary schools in South Bristol, observing, supporting and working with children with special educational needs in mainstream schools. In 1998 Margaret was appointed Deputy Head with responsibility for coordinating the delivery and monitoring of a broad and balanced curriculum, including the developing of assessment policies, mentoring and supporting staff, arranging supply cover and liaising with outside agencies. Margaret has a love of theatre, regularly seeing plays in Bristol and Bath. Music has also played a big part in her life with Margaret going to concerts at St George's and seeing Welsh National Opera productions in Cardiff and is a member of a " Good Afternoon Choir" in Bath. Since retirement, apart from the delights of spending time with three grandchildren in Bristol, Margaret has been a volunteer at Julian House in Bath. She is also involved with "Month in Bath" an audio magazine for visually impaired residents. Margaret enjoys being involved in her local village activities: baking for the twice a month coffee shop held in the church, joining the walking group every Monday morning (whatever the weather) and supporting a monthly village market.



Alex Raikes, MBE (Appointed 23 April 2019)

Alex Raikes, MBE, is Director (Strategic) of Stand Against Racism & Inequality (SARI), the charity dedicated to tackling hate crime and promoting equality and community cohesion across Avon and Somerset. SARI provides a specialist casework service – dealing with 500 new cases a year ranging from incidents such as verbal abuse or property damage to murder – education and training initiatives, young offender reduction programmes, restorative justice approaches and offers consultancy support to a range of services on equality and cultural competency. Having graduated from Bristol University in Social Policy and having worked with children with learning disabilities in care, Alex began working at SARI as its first caseworker in 1991. She took up her current role in 2014. Alex is now working to take SARI to the next leg of its journey as a growing, successful, increasingly recognised human rights local Charity. Alex has gained specialist and practical knowledge on all forms of hate crime and on delivering services to victims of such incidents. She has an extensive knowledge of other equalities and support services in the region. Alex has led on designing pioneering specialist collaborations for tackling hate crime, facilitated many complex situations involving conflict or community concerns which need addressing by public bodies or to invoke crucial learning for local services and sits on a number of local strategic partnerships. Alex was awarded an MBE for her contribution to community relations in 2009. Crucially, as a dual heritage individual with 4 teenaged sons, Alex has first-hand experience of racial harassment and of running a busy and lively household. She brings this personal understanding to her work.