

Local Advisory Board (LAB)



Kathryn Sanders - Community member, Chair & Safeguarding LAB Representative

Kathryn is a recent retiree from education with over twenty-five years of experience working in Swindon secondary schools. Her career covered a range of responsibilities, including teacher of English, head of department, and as Advanced Skills Teacher with consultant responsibilities in the local authority. For twelve years, Kathryn was an assistant principal with experience of strategic leadership in attainment and progress, raising teaching standards, continuing professional development, pastoral, safeguarding, personal development, pupil premium funding and data protection. She also performed some consultancy work with primary schools in Wiltshire and Bristol. At Lydiard Park Academy, Kathryn is the vice-chair of the local advisory board and is the link governor for safeguarding and wellbeing.



Lesley Stewart - Community member

Having now lived in Westlea for the past few years, I thought it was time to give something back to my local community, having worked in the education sector for the last 18 years, I thought it would be a good way to use the skills and knowledge that I have.

Most of my career has been in Primary education, currently I am now working for a charity who enable young people of different abilities to prepare themselves for the world of work, whichever path they chose to follow, sixth form, University, apprenticeships or straight in to a work placement.

As a Local Authority Board LAB Member, I would like to help students and the school fulfil their potential!



Gary Pearson - Principal of the Academy

I originally joined the school in 1996 as an NQT in the Humanities Department, teaching Geography at GCSE. I became a Head of Year in 1999 and saw the year group through to the end of Year 11 in 2001.

I then became an Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for the Pastoral Structure within the school.

Since 2005 I have been one of the Deputy Headteachers, referred to as Vice Principal, when the School gained Academy status and became Lydiard Park Academy.

With the growth of Park Academies Trust I became Principal in November 2016 and in this role I am a LAB Member on the Local Advisory Board.



Susannah Fernandez - Community Member & SEN Focus Lead

I moved to Swindon in 2005. My eldest child attended LPA for 3 years and my youngest has recently joined. I have a background in project management (technical and business), and spent the past 10 years focusing on Data Governance leading a policy, risk and control function. I have also provided mentoring for a local charity supporting families going through the adoption process.

I'm genuinely delighted to be given the opportunity to support LPA and the Academy Trust as a Local Advisory Board member; keen to use my skill and experience to deliver value to the teachers and pupils, both current and future.



Mike Pook - Vice Chair & Community Member

I have lived in Swindon since birth, and have two children, one of whom is now attending Abbey Park Academy.

I have always worked in IT, and for the last six years into the Defence Sector for an SME. I am based in Corsham for work.

I volunteered to become a LAB member because I felt it was a great way to try and help the community. The skills needed to perform a LAB member role suit my professional background and so this felt like a great way to help.

All my interactions with the trust so far have shown a collective desire to try and do the best possible for everyone within the Trust settings. So being able to help in any way possible seemed like a great opportunity.