

Polaris Trust Members

Name	Role	Skills and Experience
Colin Meredith	Chair of the Members Trust	Colin is the Chair of the Members Trust and Director of Utley General Services. He specialises in supporting school leaders/governing bodies with leadership and financial management. Colin spent 5 years until 2016 as Finance Director at Rastrick High School, building the systems and processes alongside the Headteacher that set the school on such a solid financial footing. On leaving Colin set up Utley General Services and alongside his role advising the Members Board he specialises in supporting school leaders and Trusts with leadership and financial management. He has also been a non-executive director and audit chair for a clinical commissioning group, a trustee for a domestic abuse charity and a trustee for a primary sponsor MAT.
Duncan Brundell	Member	Duncan is Chair of the Polaris Multi Academy Trust Board and has more than 36 years of experience working in local government. He has successfully undertaken several roles including Sports Development Manager, Procurement Category Manager (procuring goods and services worth millions of pounds) as well as the project management and development of two new-build swimming pool and fitness centres in Brighouse and Sowerby Bridge on time and on budget. After a short period in the NHS as a Social Prescriber, he worked as a Procurement Consultant for a Multi-Academy Trust comprising 16 primary schools before retirement in 2021. Duncan was previously Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Board for 9 years. Under Duncan's leadership of the Board Rastrick High School, grew from strength to strength in both education standards and in its financial stability.
Martin Ford	Member	Martin is a Rastrick Junior FC age group manager since 2016 and has been Chair of the organisation since 2018. Martin is passionate about empowering and educating children in the great outdoors through sport and developing the opportunities available to them locally. A highly motivated and passionate individual with multiple skill sets, driven by developing relationships, thriving on the determination for success through new and unique development processes and innovations.
Fiona Cullivan-Ward	Member	Fiona is a Headteacher at Littletown Junior and Infants School in Kirklees LA (judged Good in February 2019 / expected standard in RWM 84%). Fiona is a NLE. Fiona provides valuable guidance and challenge in matters relating to the quality of teaching, transition (from KS2 to KS3) as well as external measures relating to student outcomes.

Multi-Academy Trust

Polaris Trust Board

Name	Role	Skills and Experience
Duncan Brundell	Chair of the Board of Directors sits on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	Duncan is Chair of the Polaris Multi Academy Trust Board. Recently retired from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council as a Procurement Category Manager (currently managing no staff but, in his previous role in the CMBC leisure sector Duncan managed 12 fulltime, 40 part time and 75 volunteers). Duncan was previously Chair of the Finance Committee, Chair of the Board (9 years). Under Duncan's leadership of the Board Rastrick High School, grew from strength to strength in both education standards and in its financial stability.
Ian Philp	Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors Chair of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee	Ian retired in 2000; previously Headteacher of Horsforth High School, Leeds (Judged to be performing well above average in 2000 by Ofsted) and was a School Improvement Partner employed by Leeds Education Authority. Ian's previous role as a Headteacher enables him to have in-depth insight into the diligence required to effectively lead an academy budget and challenge the Headteacher on how monies can be best spent to have the most impact on student outcomes. Ian is Chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee.
Jackie Nellis	Director	Jackie has a wealth of experience in education. She was a successful Headteacher, taking Halifax Academy to a good Ofsted inspection and in turn, transforming the quality of education for students in the highest area of deprivation in the borough. Jackie latterly was appointed as the Assistant Director of Education and Children Services in Calderdale; accountable for the quality of education, wider support services and liaison with social care for children throughout Calderdale. This role meant that Jackie worked closely with Ofsted, the RSC and the DfE. Jackie is now a part time team member for the teaching school council, working closely with TSAs and TSHs in the development and implementation of research driven school to school improvement.
Andrew Tatham	Director	Andrew is a retired Deputy Headteacher. He moved from the primary sector into the Higher Education, working at Bretton Hall Higher Education College in the area of Primary Teacher Training including curriculum development with the Schools Council and then with broader HE as Head of English, and then Head of Several Faculties across the Arts and Education. Andrew's final position before his retirement from HE was as the Senior Project Officer involved in the merger of Bretton Hall and the University of Leeds. Andrew was previously Chair of the Education Standards Committee at Rastrick High School and as such has a great deal of experience in examining school data and in turn questioning and challenging the Head of School and Senior Team in the academic progress students make at the school.
Nick Midgley	Director, sits on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	Owner of Nick Midgley Design; architect. Nick provides invaluable advice and guidance on the school's building and maintenance programme. Nick is also Vice Chair of Carr Green Junior School (judged outstanding). Nick has been a Director at the school since 2015.

John Sharp	Director, sits on the Audit and Risk Finance, Committee	John has extensive experience in working in the business field. John runs his own company, advising businesses on the best use of renewable sources of energy. John's skills will be important to the Board; using his expertise to inform business and marketing practices.
Sam Priestley	Director	Sam is a qualified solicitor. She works as an in-house lawyer for Leeds City Council and has done for the last 8 years. She specialises in child protection, running a case load of public law proceedings and so has an in-depth knowledge of safeguarding, child protection and associated areas. This detailed knowledge will be used for quality assurance of systems, policies and routines for safeguarding and child protection across the Trust.
Karen Bowron	Director, sits on the Audit and Risk Finance, Committee	Karen runs her own consultancy and supports businesses to build client relationships as well as developing leadership through coaching. Much of her career was with the NatWest Bank/Royal Bank of Scotland, and she had a range of roles managing corporate banking and client relationships. Karen has built a broad skill set and, as a Chartered Banker, she has a strong understanding of business finance and uses these skills to review her current clients and help them develop strategic business plans. Karen has trustee experience as Treasurer of Yorkshire Schools Exploring Society and helped them shape the charity after it was found to be operating at a loss. Recently she has volunteered to support a charity which helps women often looking to return to work after career breaks or supporting them in new (more ambitious) roles by coaching them in interview techniques. Much of Karen's work in the past has involved elements of training and development, and this has encouraged her to look at supporting education as a non-executive director.
Andy Mahon	Director, sits on the Audit and Risk Finance, Committee	Andy is a qualified accountant. He began his career as an accountant in local government before moving into the private sector. Andy has a wealth of experiences working on large scale projects with both the private and public sector; leading service reviews, procurement strategies, financial and commercial structuring and in the negotiation of complex contracts for a wide range of services. Andy has led or worked on a wide range of politically sensitive and high-profile projects at both national and local level (for example new benefits systems for DWP, government programmes such as Building Schools for the Future and PFI projects). He is experienced at operating at board level. Andy is currently an independent consultant and Associate Consultant to Local Partnerships.

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