



#### **Chair of Trustees and Governors: Rev'd Allison Harding**

I am currently the vicar of Newburn Parish which incorporates St Michael's, Newburn and St Mary's, Throckley. Before becoming a vicar, I worked as a homelessness officer, education welfare officer and probation officer. As a probation officer, I worked with young people and their families at Gateshead Youth Offending Team; I have always had a concern for young people and particularly enjoyed working with those who struggled with education or faced challenges within their family and community. It is my hope that all young people can believe that they are unique and special, and that they can be given the support to reach their potential and make a positive contribution to society. I am delighted to be involved at Talbot House. Outside of work I enjoy spinning, watching sport and looking after my grandchildren and my Labrador, Lucy.



#### **Trustee and School Governor: Louise Cannell-Mirza**

I am a solicitor within the Family team at Ward Hadaway, Newcastle. I completed my law degree at Northumbria University in 2005 and trained and qualified at Ward Hadaway thereafter. As a family lawyer, I deal with all aspects of family law including divorce, finance and children disputes. I also advise on issues relating to adoption (including international adoption), relocation of children, domestic violence and cohabitation issues. I represent parties within complex public law care proceedings when Local Authorities issue court applications in relation to children. I am also accredited through the Law Society to represent children in such cases.

I also advise the NHS, education and employment sectors in relation to their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding children. Outside of work, I like to travel and be outdoors as much as possible with my husband and young family who keep me very busy and very entertained!



#### **Trustee and School Governor: Linda Wright**

I have been a Councillor for just over 22 years. During that time I have held various positions including Chair of Cityworks committee, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Public Health and Safety, and currently hold the position of Chair of Regulatory and Appeals. I also had the honour of being Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Council Year 17/18). Although retired now, I am a trained shorthand typist having worked most recently as a Personal Assistant. I had over 5 years of experience as a school Governor and was Chair at Throckley Primary School for over 20 years. I am married with three children and six grandchildren and in my small amount of free time I love to knit, go walking with my dog, read and go to the Ballet.



**Staff Governor: Karen Cowans**

On leaving university I worked for British Airways as a personnel/staff trainer. It was after some time here I was given the opportunity to train and became a dispensing optician, a role which I thoroughly enjoyed. After having my three children, I joined the Prison Service, working in Durham and Bracknell adult prison and Hassockfield young offender's institute. My main role in the adult prisons was security and hostage negotiation. I was then very fortunate to be offered a position at Talbot House Trust. From that day the ethos of Talbot House has been my passion. I feel privileged to be given the chance to meet our young people and be part of a team that strives to bring change to their lives, personally, socially and emotionally giving them the opportunities they deserve.



**Staff Governor: Steve Hughes**

I have been the science teacher at Talbot House Trust for the last two years, having moved from Dorset to be nearer my children and grandchildren. With over 25 years in hospitality running pubs/clubs and restaurants, I consider myself to have a wide and varied skill set to motivate and support children and adults to achieve their true potential. As well as teaching, my wife and I are foster carers, offering a secure and safe place for children in need of respite or support in unsettled times. Being a staff Governor means I can be an integral part of the process to help Talbot House Trust achieve its goals, as a teacher sharing the grass roots commitment to ensure our pupils achieve their very best!



**Parent Governor: Sophie Robinson**

I have worked with children and young people since 2011 and started my career working in a young offender's prison. I then went on to work at St Nicholas hospital in Gosforth as a mental health support worker and began working in children's homes in 2015. I became registered manager at Chadersley in September 2019. I have spent some time building up a strong staff team and our young people who live at Chadersley have made some excellent progress since they arrived. I love my job and I enjoy working with everyone at Talbot House Trust. Outside of work I am a very sociable person who loves spending time with family and friends.