



# Northern College

## Governor Role Description

### 1. Being a Governor at Northern College

1.1. Northern College is a residential college for adult education based in Stainborough, near Barnsley. The College was founded in 1978 and has a proud and celebrated history of providing educational opportunities for those adults that have returned to learning. Providing adults with an opportunity to learn and raising the aspirations within regional and national communities is central to the College's mission and values. These drive and lead the College's work and apply to all staff and governors.

**Mission:** Inspire positive change through adult education.  
**Values:** always be ambitious, have people at our heart, make things happen.

1.2. To deliver this the College has a 2025 Strategic Ambition built around five strategic priorities:

- 1.2.1. diversify our curriculum offer;
- 1.2.2. promote northern college and adult education;
- 1.2.3. innovate to improve the student experience;
- 1.2.4. value our people;
- 1.2.5. be sustainable.

### 2. Being a Northern College governor: responsibilities

2.1. The frameworks that determine what Northern College governors do and how they do it are set out in various pieces of legislation, regulation, and the College's governance documents. As part of the College leadership, governors oversee its work and provide strategic direction but are not involved in day-to-day operations. Management is the responsibility of the Principal and other staff.

2.2. Governors are responsible for:

- 2.2.1. ensuring the College complies with its governing document, and relevant legislation or regulations, including charity and further education law;
- 2.2.2. serving as a trustee of the charity and complying with the responsibilities of a trustee as set out in charity law;
- 2.2.3. serving as a director of the company and complying with the responsibilities of a director as set out in company law;
- 2.2.4. ensuring the College pursues the objectives set out in its governance documents;
- 2.2.5. determining the College's strategic goals, educational character and overall direction;
- 2.2.6. oversight of College activities;
- 2.2.7. ensuring the proper management and administration of the College;

- 2.2.8. safeguarding the College's reputation and values, and promoting the College externally;
- 2.2.9. approving and reviewing the quality strategy;
- 2.2.10. managing risk with a considered, proportionate and balanced approach;
- 2.2.11. ensuring the College's solvency and financial stability;
- 2.2.12. ensuring resources are used effectively, efficiently and only to achieve the College's objectives for public benefit;
- 2.2.13. safeguarding any assets, ensuring College funds are invested properly;
- 2.2.14. approving annual estimates of income and expenditure;
- 2.2.15. following proper and formal arrangements for the appointment, supervision, support, appraisal, suspension, dismissal and pay and conditions of service of Senior Post holders and the Clerk to Governors; and
- 2.2.16. ensuring the Board of Governors acts appropriately and within its powers.

2.3. Governors are accountable for:

- 2.3.1. students' success and safety, whether they are learning on site, in the community or on an employer's premises;
- 2.3.2. the College's financial solvency and sound management;
- 2.3.3. the quality of the education and other services provided;
- 2.3.4. the proper use of any public money received.

2.4. The normal term of office for governors is four years but a further term is possible with the approval of the Board of Governors.

### 3. Being a Northern College governor: expectations

3.1. Although governors are individually responsible for these duties and accountabilities, the Board of Governors works collectively as a team. All governors are expected to:

- 3.1.1. **commit to Northern College's Mission and behave according to its Values** - this means continuing to reflect, learn and grow, working collaboratively and supportively, and actively promoting equality, inclusion and diversity in the College and governing body;
- 3.1.2. **maintain confidentiality, integrity and comply with the Code of Governance for Governors** – see also the Seven Principles of Public Life;
- 3.1.3. **always act in the College's best interests** - governors are not 'delegates' and must not be bound by external mandates;
- 3.1.4. **support the Principal and Executive Leadership Team** – including through independent, impartial and constructive challenge;
- 3.1.5. **prepare for and participate in Governing body and committee meetings;**
- 3.1.6. **use their skills, knowledge, and professional and personal experience to improve the work of the Governing body and the College** – a diverse mix of governors is an asset, enriching thinking, challenging bias, supporting sound decisions, and strengthening governors' ambassadorial' role through wider networks;
- 3.1.7. **spend time outside meetings getting to know and understand the College** - events are essential to well-informed decision making and situating governors more firmly within the College community;
- 3.1.8. **participate in training and development programmes** – these are essential to ensuring governors stay up-to-date and able to discharge their responsibilities in a fast-changing environment .