



Education Partnership North East (EPNE) is a multi-award winning organisation with a track record of supporting communities and changing the lives of those who live and work across the North East.

The largest college group situated entirely in the North East of England, we are a dynamic partnership of three colleges – Sunderland College, Hartlepool Sixth Form and Northumberland College – and collectively we are one of the largest colleges in the country. Through our broad curriculum delivered over our seven campuses (and multiple satellite delivery centres), we offer academic and technical programmes for young people, adult learning programmes (FE and HE), apprenticeships and provision for students with high needs.

Since 2017, we have invested over £90million in world-class facilities and we continue to be led by pioneering experts who develop and deliver curriculums that ensure our students are prepared for their next step, whatever that may be. This investment in our facilities and our staff has been done in a way that ensures our financial health remains positive (DfE confirmed Good financial health in 2024).

We are an organisation that strives to be a standard bearer for the FE sector and to ensure that our local communities are given every possible opportunity to engage in the education and training they need to improve their life chances and live healthy, prosperous lives. Our success here is demonstrated through ever-improving achievement rates which place us in the top three nationally for 16-18 provision.

We are able to achieve this through the hard work and efforts of our determined and talented staff team, led by a group of individuals who each share in our collective vision to put excellence at the heart of everything we do. Our governors are no different: they have high ambition for our students, staff and themselves. We were Beacon Award Commended College for Excellence in Governance in 2022-23.

This clear vision ensures that we embrace both culture and quality in equal measure, driven by our ethos of 'our passion is our strength'. It is this philosophy that drives our collective success.

Since the success of our Ofsted inspection in May 2022 – where we were found to be Good with Outstanding features – we have continued to take bold and exciting steps to further improve our provision and our facilities, ensuring that we continue to deliver on the commitments made to our students and communities as noted in our strategic vision (2019-2025).

Our passion is our strength, we have demonstrated this continuously and this is why we will pursue our vision with enthusiasm and determination.

Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging are central to supporting the achievement of our vision of "Excellence at the heart of everything we do". We understand that people are core to achieving this goal and that DEIB has a place in every area of the college.

Our leaders, including Governors and student leaders, understand the importance of DEIB and lead by example to influence better outcomes, making a difference in all our lives.

### **Person specification**

Whilst we do not expect all members to have all knowledge and skills, we do expect every governor to have:

- the ability to work within a framework of collective decision-making in the best interests of the College, in line with the Nolan Principles and the College's values;
- strong ties to the North East and/or the communities we serve through living or working in the North East;
- a commitment to and interest in education and training in the local area;
- a commitment to the College and its role in the community;
- an ability to respect confidentiality;
- a willingness to take responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and for raising any concerns;
- willingness to continuously update skills, knowledge and behaviours;
- an understanding how to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging;
- experience of working effectively with people from diverse backgrounds, working collegially, respecting and valuing others' input and opinions;
- an ability to examine evidence and data, triangulate information and constructively support and challenge others;
- an ability to meet the fit and proper person test and a willingness to obtain DBS at enhanced level and to provide evidence of the right to live and work in the UK; and
- a willingness and ability to promote the exceptional reputation of the College through their own behaviours.

If you are interested in becoming a governor, please contact our Head of Corporate Governance and Policy, Christine Stretesky at [Christine.stretesky@educationpartnershipne.ac.uk](mailto:Christine.stretesky@educationpartnershipne.ac.uk)