Governor Biographies

Name		Appointment Date	Member Type	Biography
Jawad	Ahmad	09/05/2023	Independent	Jawad is a senior doctor working within the National Health Service (NHS). He is vehemently passionate about Chapeltown, its community and history. In his free time, he volunteers extensively across Chapeltown and Chairs the Chapeltown Neighbourhood Forum.
Mark	Baker	21/07/2016	Co-opted - Staff Support	Mark is the Theatre and Production Manager at NSCD.Mark has worked in theatre for 35 years, starting off in stage management before becoming a lighting technician at the Newcastle Playhouse. He was appointed as Production Manager for the Newcastle Dance Festival in 1990 and has specialised in lighting for dance ever since. He designed and toured nationally and internationally with Miranda Tufnell and dance companies such as Bi Ma and David Massingham Dance. Since joining NSCD he has lit work by many leading choreographers including Hofesh Schecter, Mark Baldwin, Wayne MacGregor, Ben Wright, Darshan SinghBhuller, Lea Anderson, Henri Oguike and Kim Brandstrup. He has over 20 years' experience of teaching lighting and sound for stage, stage management and video production at all levels. He also works as a digital filmmaker and has produced videos for Phoenix Dance Theatre and Balbir Singh. Mark has a Higher Diploma in Film & Video Production and an MA in Film Studies from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.
Theresa	Beattie	22/05/2022	Independent	
Kate	Buckham	17/10/2017	Independent	Kate is a solicitor working in leeds. Growing up in Scarborough Kate attended ballet lessons at her local ballet school and was a senior associate of the Royal Ballet School. At 16 she made the tough decision to withdraw from her final audition for a place at a vocational ballet school and to continue her education and study law at university. Kate trained and qualified as a solicitor in 2004, and spent many years working in London for the international law firm Baker and McKenzie LLP. During this time she enjoyed attending a variety of dance performances at the Royal Opera House and Sadlers Wells Theatre and took evening ballet classes at The Place (home to the London Contemporary Dance School). A few years ago kate moved back home to Yorkshire and now lives in York with her young family.

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Gary	Clarke	16/01/2018	Independent	Winner of a UK Theatre Award and a Critics Circle National Dance Award, Gary Clarke is currently regarded as one of the UK's leading independent dance artists who has received great appreciation for his work as a Choreographer, Performer, Director, Mentor, Teacher and Facilitator. Since graduating from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Gary has worked with some of the UK's leading contemporary dance companies and choreographers including Lea Anderson's The Cholmondeleys & The Featherstonehaughs, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Liv Lorent's balletLORENT, Lloyd Newson's DV8 Physical Theatre, Candoco Dance Company / Jerome Bel, Retina Dance Company, Bock & Vincenzi, Nigel Charnock + Company, Maresa Von Stockert & Tilted Productions, Phoenix Dance Theatre, The Felix Ruckert Company, Frauke Requardt, Javier De Frutos, ACE Dance and Music, New Art Club and Wendy Houstoun. Gary has also worked as a movement artist on a number of large scale feature films including World War Z (featuring Brad Pitt), Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (featuring Eddie Redmayne) and The Mummy (featuring Tom Cruise). He has also starred in Maximo Parks music video single Brain Cells. Gary's own choreographic work has toured extensively both nationally and internationally receiving both critical and audience acclaim. His work to date has been featured in a number of festivals and seasons including The Eddiburgh Festival, British Dance Edition, Spring Loaded, Birmingham International Dance Festival, Exposure Dance at The Royal Opera House, City to City Cabaret and Homotopia. He has also created work for Opera North, Anjali Dance Company, MAP Dance, Stotish School of Contemporary Dance, Company, MaP Dance, Stotish School of Contemporary Dance Company, Ludus Dance Company, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Scotish School of Contemporary Dance Company Company and Paralympic Games including 'Overworlds & Underworlds' in collaboration with film makers The Quay Brothers, 'Games Time', a touring outdoor multimedia spectacular e

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Emma Leah	Culen Khei	31/01/2023	Co-opted - Student	
David	Jones	25/10/2022	Independent	
Vinny	Leach	12/03/2019	Independent	Vinny is the COO of Comma Group, an information management consultancy that operates across Europe and the USA. Prior to this she has worked in a number of sectors including, Retail, Telecoms, Healthcare and Finance. Her roles have required adaptability from resolving at strategic challenges to legal, finance, resourcing and delivery problems in continually changing environments. Vinny has loved dance since she was young, but found herself steering more towards STEM subjects throughout her education. At 30 she found the opportunity to reignite her personal passion for dance by taking a 2 year course in contemporary dance. Vinny is glad to be able to contribute to an establishment that is situated within her local community and has such a positive influence on young people's lives. Outside of work Vinny loves taking her young son to gymnastics and participates in a variety of martial arts.
James Benedict	Mitchell	21/07/2016	Independent	Ben brings a wealth of strategic marketing planning and product innovation expertise to the board, having undertaken a number of senior management roles in financial services. Currently with Leeds Building Society, responsible for savings products and pricing, Ben previously held a number of executive positions with CYBG and HSBC. This is in addition to Ben's prior board experience, including at the Theatre Royal Wakefield where he chaired the Finance Committee until November 2016, through a period of immense change for the funding for the arts. Ben is qualified as an ACIB and CGMA, with an MBA from Warwick Business School and an MA from Cambridge University. Outside work Ben is married with three children, who all make sure he has little time for anything else
Peter	Moizer	07/05/2019	Independent	Professor Peter Moizer graduated from the University of Oxford with a degree in chemistry. He trained as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse before joining the Department of Accounting and Finance at the University of Manchester and then moving to the University of Leeds as its Professor of Accounting. Peter was the Executive Dean of Leeds University Business School from 2008 to 2019. He has been a member of three Councils: the Chartered Association of Business Schools, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and the University of Leeds. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) and a member of the International Management Board of the Association of MBAs (AMBA). He is also a strategic advisor to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, the largest UK local authority pension fund. Peter has a keen interest in ballet and dance, regularly attending performances in Leeds and London, and so is delighted to be a governor of the NSCD.

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Cathy	Myles	11/05/2021	Independent	Cathy is a Chartered Accountant and spent time in the banking sector before moving into professional practice. The majority of this time was with Ernst & Young both in Leeds and Sydney where she specialised in the retail industry and financial services within audit and assurance. Cathy then moved into teaching in 2007 and spent time with BPP and Leeds Metropolitan University (now Leeds Beckett University) before moving to Leeds University Business School in 2011. As a member of the Accounting & Finance Division, Cathy has held key roles as Head of Year and UG Programme Director, before moving to her current role as Pro Dean for Student Education in summer 2019. Cathy's primary research interest is in developing accounting education, particularly in relation to academic tutoring and support, and feedback to students. She is also focused on improving the academic performance of students and in developing their professional skills, which combine to ensure high student employability on completion of their academic studies. Her role on the executive board of the British Accounting and Finance Association, SIG for Accounting Education, provides an excellent vehicle to share her work to a wide audience, both within and beyond the UK.
Jonathan	Pryor	26/10/2021	Co-opted	
Phil	Sanger	22/10/2019	Co-opted - Staff Academic	
Mandy	Smits	31/01/2023	Co-opted - Student	
Griselda	Togobo	09/05/2023	Independent	Griselda Togobo is an international corporate consultant. She is also a multi-faceted entrepreneur, engineer and chartered accountant. Her experience as a black woman in the corporate world drives her to help progressive global companies create inclusive workplaces. She works directly with CEOs and business leaders to embed a culture of inclusion at the heart of their talent strategy. Griselda is the CEO of Forwardladies.com, a women's professional development company with an ambition to advance female leadership for an equitable and sustainable future for the next generation. Griselda hosts a leadership podcast, is a sought-after keynote speaker and author. Her clients include Boeing, Sage, HSBC, Natwest, Shell, Cambridge University, Oxford University and many others. She is also an Ambassador for the Open University, Black Students Support Fund, a Fellow at the Girls' Schools Association (GSA), an Enterprise Ambassador Leeds University and a Leader In Residence at Lancaster University. Griselda lives in Leeds with her husband and two children.
Sharon	Watson	11/05/2020	Ex-officio Principal	