Annie McMaster

Nomination for re-election for the Yorkshire and Humber region

Personal Statement

I have just finished my first term as the NGA Trustee for Yorkshire and Humber, and am standing for re election. I am currently the joint vice chair and, in this capacity, have provided support to the chair of the Board and the senior leadership team. I am proud of the work that NGA do to promote the importance of governance, develop the profession, and to provide support to all those who work in this area.

Whilst a Trustee, there have been many political changes and NGA has navigated these and ensured that governance continues to be considered at all levels and that the role it plays is better understood. We have listened to members, and reflected these views to ensure that they are taken account of by decision makers. My professional background was in human resources, specialising in recruitment and development. In December 2020 I retired from working in local government where I was latterly more involved in migration, inclusion, performance management and safeguarding.

My final role in Leeds City Council was leading on work linked to reducing food poverty during covid. This brought me into day to day contact with a range of third sector organisations (some of whom I already had good relationships with from earlier, unrelated, work), and gave me a first hand and good understanding of some of the hardships and concerns that many people were experiencing at that time, and still continues for many. On retirement I became more involved with the education sector and became a Trustee of a small MAT (and then chair of the Board) and as chair of a local primary school.

We worked hard to get the best outcomes (academic, social and emotional) for all our children. There have been significant changes and improvements to the trust and schools and it has been exciting to be able to support children to be the best they can be, and see the school I was most involved in move from inadequate to good under the old framework. I am now the chair of governors at a primary school where we actively took the decision to join an academy. As part of a larger Trust, I am enjoying the new perspective that comes with a new school and approach. At the heart of any organisation is the governance and, as chair, I take this role very seriously. All my work, both paid and voluntary, have had compliance, duty of care, good governance and value for money at the heart of them, and have been underpinned by clear values that are similar to those reflected in the Framework for Ethical Leadership in Education.

I believe that education underpins success in life. The effectiveness of governing boards is key to driving and supporting the improvement of educational standards and wellbeing. I welcome the opportunity to continue to support NGA in the role of Trustee, and to help improve education, champion fairness and opportunities for all our young people.