

Education Advisory Committee – Summary of experience (2024 - 2025)



Introduction

The legally accountable trustees of Employ My Ability (EMA) Limited are the founders, Steve White (Managing Director) and Jacqui Church (Education & Operations Director), and as such they have sole judgment on both strategic and operational issues.

Education Advisors do not have voting rights but are encouraged to provide reasonable counsel and robust challenge to both strategic and operational issues raised during the meetings. Their purpose is to support and challenge the leadership team at EMA in the continual development of quality provision for Education across all settings in which this is delivered.

They have a general responsibility for the conduct of the provision with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement, and continuous sustainable improvement.

The rest of this document briefly outlines the experience of our appointed external education advisory committee members.

Safeguarding Education Advisor: Tracey Zimmerman

Tracey is an experienced consultant within further education. She was one of His Majesty's Inspectors for 9 years. Prior to this, she spent many years in further education, including a significant period as a senior manager.

Tracey has managed cross-college functions and sector subject areas, including managing health and care, childcare, construction, hair and beauty, basic skills and motor vehicle. She has been responsible for all adult and international provision in a college. She has particular interest in learners who have high needs or who are disadvantaged.

Leadership & Management Education Advisor: John Parker

John Parker is a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge also with an MBA from City University (now Cass) Business School. Served 30 years with the Metropolitan Police retiring at the rank of Detective Chief Inspector before working as an advisor to the FCO.

Recently retired after 5 years as the Chief Executive for the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC). Now serving on the County Executive Committee of DAPTC and a committee of the National Association of Local Councils.

John was elected as a governor of North Dorset Salisbury NHS Trust in 2015 and is the observer governor for the Trust's Audit Committee, as well as sitting on the Constitution Committee, the Transport Strategy Group and the Sustainable Development Group.

Quality of Education Advisor: Simon Linard

Simon is the Owner and Director of SL Training & Development.

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Having worked in vocational training for nearly twenty years Simon is passionate about training Assessors, Teachers, Trainers and Quality Assurers. In 2011 he set up SL Training and Development as he felt there was a lack of specialist, good quality providers offer qualifications in teaching, assessment and quality assurance.

Simon has focused his experience and expertise in this area, with an aim to pass on his knowledge to people who work within training, assessment and quality assurance. He is passionate about the training he delivers and engages with every learner that undertakes a qualification with SL Training and Development.

Former Student Advisor: Harry Wood

Harry was a student at EMA (Moreton) from 2016 to 2018 where he was supported to undertake his GCSEs.

Prior to EMA, Harry had attended a number of different types of specialist schools which has given him a wide experience in how many schools and colleges treat and react to children and young adults with additional needs.

Since leaving EMA, Harry went onto achieve a Level 3 Equine Management Diploma before changing direction to become a fully qualified domestic, commercial, and main lines engineer with British Gas, progressing onto cover the Coventry region as a manager for specialist main lines faults. He has since moved on to work with Smart Metering Systems focussing on domestic installations.

External College Partner Advisor: Adrian Gunner

Adrian is the Proprietor, owner, and Managing Director of SWRAC an Independent Specialist College with a similar profile to EMA in terms of educational activities, ethos and growth history. Adrian's first 'career' was in Waste Management for 23 years before he switched to education in 2002, his second career now for nearly 21 years. SWRAC started with 4 members of staff in 2002 and has grown to a staffing level of 83 operating over a wide geographic area of Dorset, Hampshire and Merseyside.

As part of a peer-company arrangement Adrian joins our EAC and Steve White joins the SWRAC Board. It is hoped that by working collaboratively both organisations can share experiences, work together politically all with the long-term aim of benefitting students from both organisations. It may also bring some shared activities to achieve economies of scale benefits.

Adrian brings with him the experiences of training and education and has navigated his organisation through 5 Ofsted inspections, all of which have resulted in overall 'Good' grades.

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