



Trustees of The Howard Partnership Trust (THPT)

Ian Wilson, Chair

Ian is Chair of THPT and a Trustee of SESSET, a secondary-phase MAT in Surrey. He is an education consultant, National Governors Association (NGA) consultant, and a DfE External Expert. As a former Principal Consultant for Schools in Surrey, with prior headship experience in the Secondary phase, Ian led many courses for Babcock 4S as well as other organisations on issues ranging from the use of data to dealing with leading teams. Formerly a member of the Education Committee of the Royal Society, Ian is currently a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and of the Royal Society of Arts.

Highly experienced in supporting and challenging secondary and primary schools, ranging from those with outstanding practice to those causing concern, Ian has carried out many reviews of leadership and of teaching in both phases. His work outside Surrey has included projects advising the Isle of Wight and Bedfordshire on school re-organisation, and extensive school improvement work in Reading.

Ian's publications include two mathematics textbooks, a guide to ICT for parents, and (as co-author) the latest edition of "Effective School Management". For many years he reviewed maths publications and ICT software for the Times Educational Supplement.

Mark Lowcock, Vice Chair

Mark joined THPT Board in 2021 and has a long-standing interest in SEND as well as experience of governance in special school settings, having been the Chair of Governors at Linden Bridge School until 2017. As part of this role Mark was instrumental in the school forming a MAT and the application for the new Free School Special School, Fox Grove.

Mark has more than 30 years of humanitarian and development experience. Formerly the Permanent Secretary for the Department for International Development (DFID), leading the UK's humanitarian response to conflicts in Iraq, Libya and Syria, and to natural disasters in Asia. Prior to his leadership of DFID, Mark served as DFID's Director General for Africa & Asia. He also served previously as Director General for both Policy and Corporate Performance, and as Director of Finance.

In May 2017, Mark was appointed as the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Tina Crombie, Vice Chair

Tina became a governor at Thomas Knyvett College (TKC) in 2010 and was appointed Chair of Governors in 2011. Working in partnership with the Howard of Effingham School, she helped to develop the partnership as one of the founding schools. Tina has supported a number of schools within the Trust and currently chairs the THPT Standards & Performance Committee including the Local Chairs of Governors' forum and Quality of Education Network.

Tina works full time as a Civil Servant with over 30 years' service, having held several senior leadership roles including within HMRC and currently for the Home Office, leading a Border Force team at Heathrow. Outside work Tina has two very successful grown up daughters who attended TKC before going onto university.

Chris Williamson

Chris is a Founding Member and was appointed to the Trust Board at the inaugural meeting having been fully involved in the creation of THPT in November 2013. He has been a Governor in Surrey for over 30 years, including almost 18 years at the Howard of Effingham School where he was Chair for eight years. Chris currently chairs THPT People, Pay & Performance Committee and is the Safeguarding Trustee.

In February 2012 Chris was designated a National Leader of Governance (NLG) within the first cohort of this new role and has also served as an NLG Advocate, a role to promote the recruitment and deployment of NLGs in the South-East. As an NLG he continues to be involved in guided self-reviews of governance, and coaching and mentoring new Chairs of Governors, within and outside of Surrey. Chris supported the Teach First Governor Impact Programme as a coach/mentor; and works to support other schools in Surrey through their Local Leader of Governance (LLG) programme. Due to his extensive experience, Chris is often called to chair disciplinary panels across Surrey. Chris is retired from full-time work after a career as a chemist with GSK for over 36 years.

Paul Belok

Paul became a Trustee in 2016, and currently chairs THPT's Business & Finance Committee, as well as sitting on the Audit & Risk and People, Pay & Performance Committees. He was a Parent Governor at Oxted School as prior to the school joining THPT and was Chair of the LGB from 2016 to 2018.

Before retiring, Paul was an actuary and a partner in a large consulting firm, specialising in advising on company pension schemes. Paul is also a Trustee of the One World Group Oxted charity and secretary of Oxted Tennis Club.

Tim Mills

Appointed as a Trustee in December 2021, Tim is currently Executive Director of Primary at STEP Academy Trust (SAT). Tim has led a number of their academies to 'outstanding' OFSTED judgements and established SAT's Teaching School Hub. He is a National Leader of Education and writes and lectures on early reading, contributing to The Early Reading Framework and NPQ Leading Literacy. He has worked in merchant banking and the arts and formerly wrote features for The Evening Standard.

Mike Pinder

Mike has spent the last 15 years as Head of Internal Audit across a number of Local Authorities in London, building on nearly 30 years of audit and assurance experience in the public sector. Mike currently leads the shared audit and fraud investigations service for Ealing and Hounslow Councils, including the audit programme for their schools.

Mike is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) and has previously won the Cliff Nicholson Award for Excellence in Internal Audit and the Local Government Chronicle Award for Tackling Fraud. Mike is a leading contributor to the London Audit Group, and sits on their executive group.

Mike's older child attended a THPT school and his younger child currently attends one of the THPT schools.

John Ball

John became a Trustee in 2024 and is currently Vice-Chair of THPT's Audit & Risk Committee and a member of the Business & Finance Committee.

Prior to retiring from full-time employment, John spent his career at a large global consulting firm in the financial services industry, where he had a number of global leadership roles and then concluded his career as the UK Chief Executive. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries and has experience of advising organizations on financial planning and risk management. John is a keen cricketer who is also Treasurer of a local cricket club.

Alex Pett

Alex has over 17 years of experience in education and has chosen to spend this time working in schools that serve disadvantaged communities. Since 2021 Alex has been the Principal of Logic Studio School in Feltham working hard to build a unique education offer focused around business, computing and creative digital media. Forward thinking and with great links to industry, students benefit from an education closely linked with employers focused on the economy of the future. Having worked with this school and its Trust from their creation, Alex brings his insight and expertise to The Howard Partnership Trust.

In addition to these roles, Alex also chairs the Feltham Town Partnership, a local group bringing together the council, businesses, friends associations and residents in Feltham for the betterment of the area. Alex is also involved with Hounslow's Promise, a charity set up by the MP for Feltham and Heston, Seema Malhotra, chairing their teacher advisory board. This group meets to provide steering points for the charity to enhance its work with schools across Hounslow.

Claire Tomlinson

Appointed as a Trustee in January 2026, Claire works with public sector organisations to deliver change and transformation programmes to improve the outcomes for residents and service users.

Claire is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA), and the European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC). Claire is also a volunteer at The Royal Parks.