



## Ascendancy Partnership Trust Pen Portait

### The Trust Vision

Ascendancy Partnership Trust (APT) will be a newly-formed multi-academy trust (MAT) with deep community roots across the Berkshire area, composed of three all-through SEND schools specialising in learning difficulties. Our mission is to provide the best possible education for children and young people (CYP) with additional and complex needs in both special and mainstream schools. We believe there is an urgent need for an inclusion-focused MAT that will be a centre of excellence for SEND pedagogy and provision in the local area.

### The 3 Schools

#### **Addington - Wokingham Local Authority**

Addington is an Outstanding (Ofsted March 23) Special school in Woodley, Berkshire. It currently has 290 pupils with moderate, severe and profound learning difficulties as well as a 40 place Early Years' Centre opened in Nov 23 for similar cohort of pupils on a separate site in Farley Hill.

#### **Manor Green - Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Authority**

Manor Green is a Good (Ofsted April 23) Special school, in Maidenhead, Berkshire. It has currently has 286 pupils with moderate, severe, and profound learning difficulties. The School also has an additional 36 place Alternative Provision called The Link and is also an Apprenticeship Provider. Manor Green also opened a second site for 50 post 16 places in Nov 23.

#### **Brookfields – West Berkshire Local Authority**

Outstanding (Ofsted Sept 19) Special school in Tilehurst, Berkshire. It has currently 240 places for pupils with moderate, severe and profound learning difficulties.

## Values

Our unwavering commitment to the following values will guide our trust:

### **Stronger and Better Together.**

A strong multi-school partnership to improve outcomes, opportunities, and life chances for CYP with additional needs by offering family support, CPD, bespoke curricula and assessment, and essential therapeutic support.

### **Inclusion**

A deep commitment to SEND education and inclusion in accordance with the right time, right place, right provision ethos, including mainstream outreach.

### **Centralised Independence**

Strong, centralised MAT leadership that equips each individual school with central services in HR, finance, therapies and high quality SEND CPD. Schools will be encouraged to develop a unique cultural character and identity alongside a commitment to MAT values and goals.

As a partnership we will be **Stronger and Better Together** and therefore we will:

- Improve outcomes, opportunities and life chances for children and young people
- Offer more / wider support for their families
- Share and develop staff expertise
- Share and develop bespoke curricula
- Share and develop a therapies' hub

*These values are accompanied by nationally-recognised excellence in complex SEN provision and drive our efforts to improve life chances and outcomes for all children and young people with SEND across special and mainstream schools in Berkshire.*





## The Trust Aims







- To provide the best possible education for children and young people, including those with additional and complex needs, in both mainstream and special schools.
- To achieve excellence through innovation, creativity and continuous improvement.
- To direct the maximum resources available to The Trusts' academies, facilitating and servicing high standards.
- To build formal and informal partnerships across Berkshire and beyond.
- To develop a Trust which is outward looking and enterprising.
- To support, challenge and improve under-performing schools.
- To utilise internal and external providers in the pursuit of excellence based upon pupil need.
- To utilise the skills and experience of staff and leaders across The Trust to the best advantage of the children and young people.
- To provide an environment where staff can continually develop and progress their careers.
- To develop multi-agency working practice and develop a Therapies' Hub.
- To develop children and young people's independence skills and support families to take part in a parallel journey with their child as they prepare for adulthood.
- To maximise value-for-money by continued attention to costs and streamlining and centralising working practices where appropriate.
- To play a strategic role across the region by linking with other organisations such as Reading University, Ways into Work, Routes to Recruit, Berkshire Association of Special Schools (BASS), Team Teach and ProACT SCIPr uk, NurtureUK, local charities, Forest School Alliance and independent special schools in the south east region
- To support our own and neighbouring LAs in building capacity by sharing our expertise and opening specialist satellite provision collaboratively where needed.





## Trust Governance

A Trust is run by Members and Trustees. This is a voluntary role and we have been very fortunate to secure 15 people with a wide range of expertise in education, special educational needs, finance, legal, HR and construction to run our proposed Trust

There is more information on who our Members and Trustees are on the following page.

<b>MEMBERS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Portrait</b>	
<p><b>Dame Marcia Twelftree</b>  <b>Leadership Governance – Chair (SEND and Education)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former headteacher of two schools for 16 years (one rated Outstanding),</li> <li>• Chair of Governors at Parker EACT Academy and Burnham Park EACT Academy, and Chair of IEB at Wye Valley School.</li> <li>• Former member of the Government Implementation Review Unit representing Headteachers from 2003-2009, closely advising government on policy implementation, and sat on the Board of the School Food Trust from 2007 to 2011.</li> <li>• Headteacher for Charters School in Sunningdale who has chaired various school and trust boards (Berkshire based)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Fiona O'Donnell</b>  <b>Member - Finance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A governor at Manor Green and former parent.</li> <li>• A qualified accountant (CIMA)</li> <li>• Head of Enterprise Risk Management at International Airlines Group, and has been instrumental in managing Manor Green's finances.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Ted Stevens</b>  <b>OBE</b>  <b>Member</b>  <b>Project Management, Construction &amp; Estates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experienced with development, PR, and communications</li> <li>• Former director of SEAFAs Consulting for 17 years.</li> <li>• Former chair of the National Custom and Self Build Association for 8 years. (Gloucester based)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Robert Posner</b>  <b>Member</b>  <b>Leadership / Governance, Law</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former CEO and Legal Counsel for The Electoral Commission,</li> <li>• Can ensure compliance with applicable law, Nolan Principles, and professional standards. (Legal, governance and regulatory specialist)</li> <li>• Legal Consultant and Editor (London based)</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Claire Denning</b> Member HR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chartered FCIPD working in the public and commercial sector with well-developed communication, interpersonal, influencing and analytical skills.</li> <li>Employee Experience Manager at Gama Aviation.</li> <li>Previous experience as HR Manager at Airbus &amp; The Electoral Commission (home-based in Cornwall)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>TRUSTEES</b></p>		
<p><b>Mark Trepte</b> Chair of Trustees, Chair of Addington Local Governing Body Leadership / Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair of governors at Addington School</li> <li>A governor since 2003.</li> <li>Focused on ensuring the best education for pupils. by questioning how budget spend, curriculum changes, IT investments etc</li> <li>Created the role of Equity Governor to ensure Protected Characteristics are considered across operations.</li> <li>Supported the Head closely through COVID and has negotiated an agreement with the LA for the Farley Hill expansion, ensuring the main budget was protected.</li> <li>He also has twelve years of experience in the private sector as the Content and Operations Director of an SME with staff (250+) in 6 countries and global sales.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Richard Pelly</b> Trustee, Chair of Manor Green Local Governing Body Finance, Leadership / Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair of MGS's Governing Board</li> <li>Chaired two other governing boards, at Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School and Holy Trinity CofE Primary School</li> <li>Planned school strategic direction, overseen school financial performance, and held Headteachers to account.</li> <li>Former Treasurer of a Charity supporting Ranelagh School in Bracknell for 10 years.</li> <li>Chair of Policies Committee (Business and Governance)</li> <li>He served 33 years as a Marine Engineer Officer in the Royal Navy and 12 years as a Company Secretary and Director for a company promoting UK skills and expertise internationally.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Sam Jacob</b> Trustee, Chair of Brookfields Local Governing Body Project Management, Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior Project Manager at KPMG</li> <li>Significant leadership and management experience across Microsoft Dynamics projects</li> <li>Chair of Resources Committee</li> <li>7 years of experience of Governance.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Rita Vasa</b> Trustee SEND, School Improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Senior Adviser for Early Years and Primary at the RBWM for 18 years,</li> <li>Former School Improvement Adviser at West Berkshire Council for two years, lending her expertise in educational planning and assessment.</li> <li>She has held two headship roles and has significant school improvement experience across a wide range of schools.</li> <li>Chair of the governing board of Frogmore Infant School in Surrey.</li> <li>Chair of Quality of Education Committee</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Julie-Ann Burger</b> Trustee - Law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner at Reading-based E J Winter and Son LLP</li> <li>Qualified as a solicitor in 1990 and as a Mediator in 2011</li> <li>Accredited by the Family Mediation Council.</li> <li>Trained in inclusive child mediation and is qualified to supervise mediators as a Professional Practice Consultant.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Lynne Samuel</b> Trustee - Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services at Wokingham Borough Council.</li> <li>• Worked with Schools Forum and school leaders to improve transparency and quality of financial reporting and decision making</li> <li>• Fully qualified CIPFA member since 2003</li> <li>• Active CPD / Annual Membership Statement</li> <li>• Chair of Audit, Risk and Finance Committee</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Stewart Harris</b> Trustee, C &amp; E</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 years of experience in corporate construction, specialising in main contracting, residential housebuilding and operations management with a proven track record of successful leadership, strategic vision, and operational expertise.</li> <li>• Former Operations Director at Rectory Homes, and will lend his expertise to pre-opening construction and estates management.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Catherine Tissot</b> PhD Trustee - SEND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor of Special Educational Needs at Reading University,</li> <li>• Former Head of School of the university’s Institute of Education. She has been involved in several courses training primary and EY teachers, both delivering lectures and tutoring for placements in special and mainstream schools.</li> <li>• She designed and delivered the compulsory training course for all SENCOs.</li> <li>• She is our pedagogical expert and a renowned expert in research for professional development for specialist SEND teachers.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Alison Grayley</b> Trustee - HR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HR Manager at Staytite Ltd.</li> <li>• Chair of Resources Committee –Staffing</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Clare Hails</b> Governors Professional</p>	<p>Governance Professional for the Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight years’ experience as a Governance Professional, working for maintained primary and secondary schools and Multi Academy Trusts.</li> <li>• Worked for the Trust Board at Berkshire Schools Trust (BST) as well as the Governing Bodies of two schools in the Trust before BST joined ODST.</li> <li>• Currently Trust Secretary for Corvus Learning Trust (since September 2022) and Clerk to Governors for The Bulmershe School (since March 2021)</li> </ul>	