

GMLPN Advisory Board Member Role Profile

Accountable To: The GMLPN Board of Directors

Term of Appointment: Normally one year, renewable subject to annual review and reappointment through GMLPN governance arrangements.

Purpose of the Role

The GMLPN Advisory Board provides strategic advice, sector intelligence and insight to support the Board of Directors and Team in delivering GMLPN's vision, objectives and priorities.

Advisory Board Members act as ambassadors for GMLPN and the wider Further Education, Skills and Employment sector across Greater Manchester. They bring knowledge, expertise and networks that help ensure GMLPN remains responsive to the needs of providers, employers, communities and strategic partners.

The Advisory Board operates in an advisory capacity and does not hold decision-making authority or direct the activities of the GMLPN Board of Directors.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Advice and Influence

- Provide informed advice on issues affecting the skills, employment and education landscape within Greater Manchester.
- Support horizon scanning by identifying emerging policy developments, funding opportunities, risks and challenges.
- Contribute to discussions that help shape GMLPN's strategic priorities, programmes and member services.
- Share intelligence regarding local, regional and national developments relevant to members.

Representation and Advocacy

- Act as a positive ambassador for GMLPN within their organisation, networks and stakeholder groups.
- Promote the value and impact of GMLPN activities, services and events.
- Support GMLPN's engagement with strategic partners, policymakers and sector bodies.
- Where appropriate, represent GMLPN at meetings, events and working groups and provide feedback to the network.

Member and Stakeholder Engagement

- Bring the views and perspectives of members, employers and other stakeholders into Advisory Board discussions.
- Encourage engagement across the network and support collaboration between members.
- Facilitate introductions and connections that may create opportunities for partnership, innovation or sector influence.
- Support consultation responses and engagement activities on behalf of the network.

Leadership of Network Activity

- Contribute to and, where appropriate, lead GMLPN activities such as:
 - Provider forums
 - Exchanges
 - Focus groups
 - Task and finish groups
 - Sector-specific networks
 - Development and improvement initiatives

Organisational Development

- Provide constructive challenge and feedback on GMLPN performance, activities and plans.
- Support the continuous improvement and sustainability of the network.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen member value, partnerships and commercial activity.

Expected Commitment

Advisory Board Members are expected to:

- Attend quarterly Advisory Board meetings.
- Attended ad-hoc Advisory Board meetings where required.
- Read and review papers in advance of meetings.
- Actively participate in meetings and working groups.
- Respond to surveys, consultations and information requests where relevant.
- Maintain regular communication with GMLPN on matters affecting the sector.

Person Specification

Essential Knowledge and Experience

- Senior leadership experience within education, skills, employment, business, community or related sectors.
- Good understanding of the Further Education and Skills landscape.
- Knowledge of issues affecting employers, learners and communities across Greater Manchester.
- Experience of partnership working and stakeholder engagement.
- Ability to think strategically and contribute to broader sector discussions.

Essential Skills and Behaviours

- Strong communication and influencing skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively and constructively challenge where appropriate.
- Commitment to promoting the interests of the wider network.
- Ability to represent diverse perspectives and stakeholder interests.
- Credibility within their sector or professional area.

Desirable

- Experience of governance, advisory boards or non-executive roles.

- Established relationships with regional or national stakeholders.
- Expertise in areas such as apprenticeships, adult skills, employability, inclusion, workforce development, higher education, community learning or economic development.

Values and Principles

Advisory Board Members will:

- Act in the best interests of GMLPN and its membership.
- Promote equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Maintain confidentiality where required.
- Demonstrate professionalism, integrity and respect.
- Champion collaboration and partnership across Greater Manchester.
- Support the achievement of improved outcomes for learners, employers and communities.

Success Measures

Advisory Board Members will contribute to:

- Strong member engagement and participation.
- Effective sector representation and influence.
- Improved intelligence gathering and horizon scanning.
- Increased collaboration across the network.
- Successful delivery of GMLPN strategic objectives.
- Enhanced relationships with key stakeholders and partners.