

GMLPN Advisory Board Member Role Profile 2026

Purpose of the Role

The GMLPN Board of Directors provides strategic leadership, governance and oversight for the organisation. Board Members are responsible for ensuring that GMLPN delivers its vision, objectives and priorities in a sustainable, effective and accountable manner.

Board Members act in the best interests of GMLPN and its membership, providing direction, scrutiny and challenge to support the organisation's success and long-term sustainability. They also act as ambassadors for GMLPN and the wider Further Education, Skills and Employment sector across Greater Manchester.

Key Responsibilities

Governance & Oversight

- Ensure GMLPN operates in line with its vision, values and strategic objectives.
- Approve and monitor the delivery of strategic plans, business plans and organisational priorities.
- Approve annual budgets and oversee financial performance and sustainability.
- Monitor organisational performance against agreed objectives and outcomes.
- Ensure appropriate governance, compliance, risk management and assurance arrangements are in place.
- Provide constructive challenge and scrutiny to support effective decision-making.
- Declare and appropriately manage any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.

Strategic Leadership

- Support the development and delivery of GMLPN's strategic direction and long-term priorities.
- Contribute sector intelligence, insight and expertise to inform Board discussions and decisions.
- Support horizon scanning by identifying emerging opportunities, risks, policy developments and funding changes affecting members and the sector.
- Provide strategic support, guidance and challenge to the GMLPN Executive Team.
- Consider the long-term implications of decisions and their impact on members, learners, employers and partners.

Representation and Advocacy

- Act as a champion for GMLPN and the Further Education and Skills sector across Greater Manchester.
- Promote the vision, values, priorities and impact of GMLPN within professional networks and stakeholder groups.
- Support GMLPN's engagement with strategic partners, policymakers, employers and sector bodies.
- Represent GMLPN at external meetings, events, consultations and partnership forums where appropriate.

Stakeholder and Network Engagement

- Build and maintain effective relationships with members and key stakeholders.
- Support collaboration and partnership across the network.
- Facilitate introductions and opportunities that may strengthen GMLPN's influence, impact and sustainability.
- Support consultation responses, intelligence gathering and sector engagement activities where appropriate.

Network Leadership

- Contribute to and, where appropriate, lead GMLPN activities including:
 - Network meetings
 - Exchanges
 - Roundtables
 - Focus groups
 - Task and finish groups
 - Development and improvement initiatives
 - Strategic projects and partnerships

Expected Commitment

Board Members are expected to:

- Attend monthly Board meetings.
- Attend quarterly Advisory Board meetings.
- Attend the AGM and other governance events as required.
- Read and review meeting papers in advance.
- Actively participate in discussions and decision-making.
- Participate in working groups and ad-hoc meetings where agreed.
- Respond to surveys, consultations and information requests where relevant.
- Maintain regular communication with GMLPN on matters affecting the sector and membership

Person Specification

Essential Knowledge and Experience

- Senior leadership experience within education, skills, employment, business, public, voluntary or community sectors.
- Strong understanding of the Further Education and Skills landscape.
- Experience of strategic leadership, governance or organisational development.
- Experience of partnership working and stakeholder engagement.
- Understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing providers, employers and communities across Greater Manchester.

Essential Skills and Behaviours

- Ability to think strategically and contribute to long-term planning.
- Ability to make informed, balanced and independent judgements.

- Strong communication, influencing and relationship-building skills.
- Ability to provide constructive challenge and scrutiny.
- Ability to identify opportunities and assess risk.
- Commitment to acting in the interests of the wider membership and network.

Desirable

- Previous Board, Trustee, Governor or Non-Executive Director experience.
- Established relationships with regional or national stakeholders.
- Expertise in areas such as apprenticeships, adult skills, employability, inclusion, workforce development, economic development, governance, finance or business growth.

Values and Principles

Advisory Board Members will:

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

Success Measures

Board Members will contribute to:

- Effective governance and sound decision-making.
- Delivery of GMLPN's strategic objectives.
- Financial sustainability and organisational resilience.
- Strong member engagement and participation.
- Increased influence and sector representation across Greater Manchester and beyond.
- Strong stakeholder relationships and partnerships.
- Positive outcomes for members, learners, employers and communities.