

FRANK NORRIS MBE FCCT

NED & EDUCATION AND SKILLS ADVISER

OBJECTIVE

To utilise my extensive and varied experience, skill and awareness to support improvements in life chances of the most vulnerable members of society

CURRENT ROLES

- Board member, (former Chair) of Liverpool Education Board, since 2020
- Board member of InnovateHer, a not-for-profit organisation committed to preparing girls for the tech industry and the tech industry for girls, since 2019
- Board member of Intergenerational Opera, since 2023
- Co-lead of Education Leaders' Network for Forum Strategy since 2024
- Co-host of award winning podcast/videocast about education and leadership "Frank and Stan Chat" since May 2020

EXPERIENCE

- Interim CEO (Nov 2025)- March 2026) and former Trustee and Chair of Finance and Resources at Great Academies and Education Trust in East Manchester since 2019
- 2019-2025 Adviser on Education, including Skills and place based initiatives to Northern Powerhouse Partnership
- 2019 – 2024 Independent Chair of Blackpool Education Improvement Board
- 2022-2024 Chair of DfE's Priority Education Investment Area Board for Blackpool
- 2013-2019 CEO at Coop Academies Trust (largest business sponsored academy trust in England) with annual budget of +£220m and nearly 3k staff
- 2012-2013: Senior school improvement adviser for Stockport MBC
- 2001-2012: Divisional Manager (HMI) with Ofsted. schools, local authorities and initial teacher training. Oversaw developments of Joint Area Reviews (local authority inspection programme) leading nine other inspectorates, including social care, health, police and probation.
- 1992-2001: Headteacher Lower Park Primary School, Poynton, Cheshire. Judged Excellent' in 1999.

- 1988-1992: Headteacher Millbank Junior School, Partington, Trafford
- 1979-1988: Various teaching posts in Stockport schools.
- 1973 – 1975: Essex Trustee Savings Bank
- No gaps in employment
- Responsible for national Framework development for Education
- Bachelor of Arts (Open University)
- Bachelor of Education and Certificate of Education (St Mary's College, Twickenham)
- Appointed Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching in 2021

PERSONAL SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

- Strong co-operator and enabler
- Ability to drive change and improvement while keeping stakeholders on board as shown when working with the Coop Group Board to increase the number of academies they sponsored from 6 to 23 within 3 years
- Empathetic and understanding of people's views and position
- Able to navigate tricky political waters adhering to clear values and principles as demonstrated in working with government Ministers to resolve underperformance of schools and securing multi million pound investments in East Manchester and Blackpool
- Understanding of the role of Board membership and achieving the highest standards as shown in the Coop Academies Trust when I was CEO being awarded Best Large Multi-Academy Trust by the National Governance Association in 2019
- Able to share education vision with business leaders
- Awarded MBE in 2019 for services to education
- Placed in Top 30 of Education Business Magazine's Top 50 most influential professionals having an impact on education in 2024, 2025 and 2026.