



ANNE SIMPSON



Why did you want to become a Member of the NESCol Regional Board ?

I've been a member of the NESCol Regional Board for six years. Before that I had been member of Banff & Buchan College Board since 2011, and was involved in the merger of Banff & Buchan and Aberdeen Colleges to form the regional college, NESCol.

I joined the Board of Banff & Buchan College on my retirement as Community Learning & Development Manager with Aberdeenshire Council. I knew the College well as a key partner in the delivery of community based adult learning, in particular our joint approach to adult literacies. I have always been interested in education from my early career as a youth worker some forty years ago, recognising learning as a means of everyone realising their potential. My particular interest is in young people who for whatever reason have not been able to realise their potential in a school setting, and I was interested in how the FE sector delivers positive outcomes for this group. Being a Board Member was an opportunity to utilise my skills and experience and as well as the chance to further my knowledge and understanding of the education landscape in a rapidly changing world.

**Describe your experience as a NESCol Board Member so far
What are the enjoyable aspects of being a NESCol Board Member ?**

I was delighted to be appointed to the new College's first Board, working with the senior management of the College to shape the new organisation. I've been very involved in reshaping the College's Students' Association in order to strengthen the voice of our students, and improve student engagement. I've also had the pleasure of chairing one of the Board's Standing Committees which has enabled me to work more closely with College staff and fellow Board Members and to learn more about the core work of the College, namely learning and teaching. I've taken the opportunity to help assess the nominations for the annual staff awards scheme. I've especially enjoyed participating in the six-monthly Strategy Events which provide the time to review and forward plan. And, of course, there are the regular invitations to attend performances, exhibitions and award ceremonies! All in all, being a Board Member has been a very interesting, enjoyable and fulfilling role.

How do you feel the Regional Board and Board Members make a difference to the College and the North East of Scotland ?

There are no doubt challenges in the college sector currently as it adapts to a difficult financial climate and a rapidly changing world but being a Member of the Regional Board provides the opportunity to address these challenges so that NESCol continues to be a successful, vibrant organisation that plays a key role in the economy and social infrastructure of North East Scotland.