



## LWBLA appoint a new Chair of the Board

### PRESS RELEASE

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**The LWBLA is delighted to announce the appointment of Gary Hunnisett as the new chair of the LWBLA Board.**

The LWBLA is the regional provider network for London leading on apprenticeships and engages across all aspects of Post -16 education & training.

Gary is the Commercial Director of Smart Training and was unanimously elected by the Board to be the next Non Exec. Chair at its last Board meeting.

Gary has stepped up from Vice Chair and replaced Vic Farlie, the long serving founding Chair of the LWBLA.

Gary paying tribute to Vic stated:

*"Vic has been an inspirational figure for independent providers in London. He has championed the cause of the independent provider creating one of the most dynamic and forward thinking networks in the country. His business leadership has been pivotal to creating effective strategies not just for apprenticeships but right across post -16 education in London."*

Vic Farlie has agreed to continue to stay on the LWBLA Board and will lead on the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy and the London Area Wide Review process.



Vic Farlie stated:

*"I am very grateful for the opportunity to have led the LWBLA. Who would have predicted that 8 years ago we would have grown to having over 130 members today with independent providers accounting for over 90% of all publicly funded apprenticeships in London. When Ofsted awarded Arch a grade 1 that was our fifth independent provider to achieve that result in London."*

*"My life is moving on in a different direction. I will spend time in the UK as I hold important non-executive chairmanships as well as public Board commitments, but I will also be in Silicon Valley, California, looking at the next generation of educational technology and developing new business ideas. We are on the threshold of radical changes in the way education is organised, managed and taught."*

Other LWBLA Board members echoed Gary's comments.



A fellow LWBLA Board member Alexis Michaelides Director of Big Creative Education stated:

*“Vic has been a central figure in the history of getting recognition and credibility for the independent provider in London. His ideas and collaborative approach has been instrumental in our collective success. Gary is the ideal person to take that to the next stage and broaden our remit and offer.”*

The LWBLA has been very proactive in contributing to public policy in London and collaborating with other key players in our sector such as AoC and HOLEX.

Looking to the future Gary Hunnisett set out the key priorities for the LWBLA:

*“We will be at the forefront of engaging with employers with the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy, working closely with new Mayors administration on devolution, and ensuring that we maximise the opportunities for independent providers to secure ESIF funding.”*

ENDS

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## NOTES

1. The LWBLA was established in 2007 following a major consultation across London resulting in the establishment of a regional provider network.
2. The LWBLA employs Nicola Mayell as its Regional Network Manager based in Loman St. London SE1, close to the Tate Modern. The LWBLA has a Board elected by the five sub-regions of London. [www.lwbla.com](http://www.lwbla.com)
3. Gary Hunnisett is the commercial director of Smart Training one of London's most established apprenticeship providers in childcare with national contracts and services. He has enjoyed a successful business career and chairs the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network of London's leading providers. <http://www.smart-training.com/>
4. The 5 London based providers to have been awarded a grade 1 by Ofsted are: Hillingdon Training, Hawk Training, QA, ELATT and Arch. London independent providers are performing ahead of the national grade averages since the introduction of the new Ofsted CIF.
5. Vic Farlie is a successful entrepreneur who created Capital Learning Services Limited (2001-2005) and Redwood Education & Skills Limited (2008-2011). He is the long serving Non Exec Chair of the Greenwich Enterprise Board, [www.geb.co.uk](http://www.geb.co.uk) and is the Non Exec Chair of Estio Training, the fastest growing IT Apprenticeship Provider based in Manchester 'Northern Powerhouse'. [www.estiotraining.co.uk](http://www.estiotraining.co.uk)
6. Vic Farlie is a member of the YPES Board led London Councils and in 2016 was appointed by the Mayor of London to be an observer on the London Area Wide Review panel.