

# People on the move: key North East appointments and promotions

**Elanders UK** has appointed Kelly Heath and Chris Homa as business development managers.

The two new managers both previously worked within business development manager positions. Operating alongside Martin Ellison business development director and the UK marketing team, the pair will work across all UK sites with a focus on growing the business supply chain footprint.

Kevin Rogers, managing director, said: “To achieve our targets we have, over the last 12 months, appointed a range of highly motivated and skilled people. We will continue to recruit and retain talented individuals who we feel match our company culture and values. Kelly and Chris are examples of this and I have no doubt they will be excellent additions to the business development team.”

**Read more:** [10 questions for Hayley Fell of Evolved Search](#)



Andrew Simmons of Avison Young  
(Image: Avison Young)

**Avison Young** has made a further senior appointment in the real estate management FM (facilities management) team at its Newcastle office.

Andrew Simmons recently returned to the North East and has been appointed as FM/estates manager bringing experience managing single and multi-let properties in high value portfolios including Crown Estate and other properties in central London.

He said: "I'm excited to be joining Avison Young at such a special time in the development of Newcastle city centre. The opportunity to work in one of the leading property management teams within the city is unbelievable and I can't wait to see what the future brings."



Max Woodhouse (left) and right Carl Swansbury of RG Corporate

Finance

(Image: RG Corporate Finance)

**RG Corporate Finance** (RGCF) has appointed Max Woodhouse as a corporate finance executive.

Mr Woodhouse joined RG in 2018 as an audit and accounts assistant and after secondments with the firm's wealth management and corporate finance service lines decided to pursue a career in corporate finance.

He said: "Being part of the wider RG business has given me excellent experience and the opportunities to help me choose my preferred career path within the firm. My secondment with RGCF cemented my ambitions to become a corporate finance adviser, so I am really excited about this opportunity."



Christine Wood of Aon

(Image: Aon)

**Global professional services firm Aon plc** has appointed Christine Wood to become head of office for Newcastle and Stockton.

As Aon's regional managing director North, Ms Wood assumes overall responsibility for the firm's North East offices and its 30-strong team of client directors and advisors. She joined Aon in 2013, serving most recently as regional sales director, and before joining Aon she held senior leadership roles with Newcastle Airport and John Lewis in Newcastle.

Ms Wood said: "In my new role I am keen to build on our strong client relationships, develop new partnerships, and to nurture my talented and experienced team to ensure that we continue to deliver the best service."



Steven Roberts, the newly appointed chief executive of environmental and community charity Groundwork North East &

Cumbria

Steven Roberts has been appointed as chief executive of environmental and community charity **Groundwork North East & Cumbria** as the organisation ramps up efforts to tackle rising levels of poverty, the energy crisis and environmental concerns. Mr Roberts has worked for the organisation for 21 years, joining as a volunteer before progressing to the post of director of youth, employment and skills. Under his management, the division has expanded to now employ over 135 people and works with partners across the public, private and voluntary sector.

He said: "Groundwork has given me the opportunity to make a difference on two key agendas that I care most about – inequality and the environment. Empowering people, communities and stakeholders to take practical action is what we do best!"



Sarah Burgess, the new whiskymaker at The Lakes Distillery

(Image: Peter Dibdin)

**The Lakes Distillery** has appointed Sarah Burgess to be its new whiskymaker. Former Lead Whiskymaker at The Macallan, Ms Burgess comes to the new role having been creative director at The Craigellachie, where she has been crafting a luxury lifestyle collection of drinks telling the story of Speyside at one of the world's oldest whisky hotels. She brings more than 25 years of whisky-making passion and knowledge to The Lakes Distillery.

She said: "I was intrigued by The Lakes as a new distillery but one creating such high-quality whisky. I am excited to be part of a new and innovative operation."

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