



CRITICALEYE

The Peer-to-Peer Board Community

Chair Ready

P R O G R A M M E

The Criticaleye **Chair Ready Programme** inspires, empowers and develops new and aspiring Chairs

Criticaleye's **Chair Ready Programme** equips individuals to become high-performing Chairs within an intimate cohort of peers. It fulfils development obligations and enhances skills for current and future Board roles, serving as a key component for professional growth.

Who is the Programme for?

- **Established NEDs aiming for a Chair role:** boost your confidence, credibility and knowledge
- **Senior Independent Directors:** equip yourself with the confidence and skills needed to step into the Chair's role when duty calls
- **New and transitioning Chairs:** refine your approach and identity
- **Lapsed Chairs:** refresh your skills and gain new insights

In a survey with graduates of the Programme, **100 percent** of respondents agreed that the Programme supported their development in preparing for **success in their first Chair role** and **92 percent** of respondents said they would **recommend the Programme to a peer**.

The **Chair Ready Programme** offers invaluable access to seasoned Chairs, who will share their insights and wealth of experiences, to support in the growth of aspiring Chairs. The Programme covers the dynamics of Chairing Boards of companies in the public markets, private equity and in the third sector.

This year-long Programme is delivered virtually and, upon completion, you will have gained the following:

- Full access to Criticaleye's exclusive Board Community as a NED Member
- 4 x 90 minute virtual masterclass sessions, for Programme participants only
- 5 x 90 minute virtual roundtable sessions, final 30 minutes for Programme participants only
- Graduation certificate, demonstrating your commitment to CPD
- A LinkedIn badge to showcase your development

"The **Criticaleye Chair Ready Programme** shed light on the unique responsibilities of a Board Chair, deepening my understanding and instilling the confidence to lead with impact. **I am now more prepared to embrace the challenges and opportunities of a Board Chair.**"

Mui Hoon Poh

Non-executive Board Member & Member of Audit and Risk Committee
Singapore Eye Research Institute





November 2025 Cohort

12 Month Programme Schedule

Designed to run alongside other scheduled NED events, such as our online Forums, Roundtables and the Chair & Non-executive Director Retreat taking place in 2026, your exclusive Chair Ready Programme schedule will run as follows:

29/10/2025	Introduction to the Programme
11/11/2025	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: <i>Defining a Strategic Board Agenda</i>
04/12/2025	Chair Ready Masterclass: <i>Driving a Purposeful Business</i>
13/01/2026	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: <i>How to Chair an Effective Board Meeting</i>
05/02/2026	Chair Ready Masterclass: <i>Succeeding as a First-time PLC Chair</i>
12/03/2026	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: <i>The Chair's Role in M&A</i>
21/05/2026	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: <i>Succeeding as a First-time PE Chair</i>
09/06/2026	Chair Ready Masterclass: <i>The Chair and CEO Relationship</i>
22/07/2026	Chair Ready Masterclass: <i>Chairing Through Volatility</i>
08/09/2026	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: <i>Creating a High-performing Board</i>
07/10/2026	Chair Ready Programme Graduation Ceremony: <i>November 2025 Cohort</i>

All events to run virtually between 8:30am – 10am GMT.

“As a Senior Independent Director on a number of Boards, there are times when I have had to step in when a Chair was absent or unavailable. I wanted to feel better equipped both from a confidence and from a skills perspective, but also to consider whether or not to apply for Chair roles myself. The **Critical Eye Chair Ready Programme** has been invaluable, providing me with both skills and confidence while offering access to a **valuable network** of Chairs and NEDs for advice. **I highly recommend it.**”

Maria Darby-Walker
Senior Independent Director, Redwood Bank





Non-executive Director Membership

By joining the Chair Ready Programme, you also have access to our broader Community and opportunities as a Non-executive Director Member of Criticaleye.

This Membership provides you with:



Relationship Manager

A Relationship Manager will coordinate all aspects of your Membership to ensure you gain maximum value.

Their role is to challenge your thinking and help navigate your activities within the Community.



Peer-to-Peer connections

We will connect you to the right person at precisely the right time. Someone in our Community has the knowledge you need to address challenges and answer your questions.



Leadership Retreats

High-impact, case study led Retreats in the UK and Asia, bringing together Board leaders and executives to share, interact, reflect and learn about best practice leadership.



Events & Roundtables

Interact with our global Community. Whether face-to-face or delivered virtually, our Forums, Roundtables and NED CV Clinics offer an interactive environment for leaders to discuss and debate business critical issues.



Editorial Content

Criticaleye's cutting edge business content delivers thought-provoking ideas and insights from across our peer Community.



Board Mentors

Connect with our unrivalled team of over 100 Mentors who have a collective experience of more than 125 CEO roles and over 350 Chair and Non-executive roles to draw from.



Strategic Pop-up Boards

Host your own Pop-up Board to gain impartial insights and support from a panel of trusted peers and experts or share your expertise on a panel to help fellow Community Members overcome challenges and drive strategic success.



World Leading Expertise

Providing an invaluable source of expertise and insight to executives, we tap into experts and professional service providers to support our Members.

"I have **contributed to the Community and have received so much more in return**. This is all enabled by the continuing creativity and inspiration of the Criticaleye team... For anyone looking to gain an edge in their NED career, **I strongly recommend joining the Criticaleye Community.**"

Ed Jones

NED, Now: Pensions, Chair, Wightlink Ferries
& Board Mentor, Criticaleye





Since its launch in 2021, **Chair Ready Programme** events speakers have included:

 David Higgins Chair United Utilities	 Susanne Given Chair Made.com	 Matthew Lester Chair Kier Group
 Caroline Silver Chair PZ Cussons	 Leslie Van de Walle Chair, Euromoney Institutional Investor	 Fiona Ross Chair, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board
 Sangeeta Desai Former Chair Mopar Media	 Philip Cox Chair Drax Group	 Dave Wilson Chair LGB Media
 Derek Mapp Chair Eurocell	 Bridget Rosewell Chair M6toll	 William Lo Chair DazMaster



“Having recently taken on my first Chair role, **Criticaleye’s Chair Ready Programme** has helped me to establish the type of Chair I want to be. Insightful conversations with experienced Chairs who have the scars from tough experiences underscored the value of cross-sector learning and serve as a reminder for those in insurance or financial services of its importance. **Criticaleye’s Community** has honed my understanding of **the difference a good Chair makes** as well as allowing me to **meet some inspirational ones.**”

Mark Stephen
Chair TransRe London

Benchmark, develop and accelerate your plural career with Criticaleye and the **Chair Ready Programme**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND TO APPLY, PLEASE CONTACT

Simon Baylik
Business Development Manager
simonb@criticaleye.com

Mike Walsh
Business Development Manager
mike@criticaleye.com