

LONDON REGION

Chair: Tracey Connage (London Borough of Brent)

This has been an interesting first year in the chair for the London Region of PPMA!

I would like to thank all members for their sterling support for last year's Conference and for their attendance and support for regional meetings and activities throughout the year.

Our regional meetings have had a common theme focused on the change agenda. My first meeting as Chair was on the challenging subject of Change: Is HR really ready? This included two presentations from a current and former HR Director, turned interim Chief Executive. Feedback from attendees was very positive and the perspective of HR performance from the view of the chief executive was particularly illuminating. Morgan Law generously agreed to sponsor the venue and speakers.

Our meeting following the May Elections anticipated the leadership challenges facing HR and the public sector generally. The theme for the event was – Leading through Unchartered Territory. The London Speakers Bureau provided two excellent and contrasting speakers and 'Master Class' sessions. Coaching expert David Clutterbuck and military expert Rear Admiral Chris Parry gave critical insights into leadership capacity and credentials during turbulent and uncertain times.

Collaboration has also been an important feature of the region this year.

As a region we have supported the PPMA HR Transformation programme and members have attended various seminars and workshops on HR transformation topics such as the future of shared HR services in the public sector. The region has also supported and collaborated with HR and OD events promoted by Capital Ambition and Local Government Improvement and Development including the successful Big Debate in July. A follow up session on managing organisational change held in October was also well attended by regional members.

The London Region also liaises closely with the Southern & South East Region and has shared invitations to regional events and meetings. London members were invited to join a Pay and Rewards session, hosted by Incomes Data Services in December.

On 11 March the President of our sister NHS organisation the HPMA Kevin Croft, will be attending the regional meeting to discuss and share potential opportunities for closer networking and collaboration between us. The focus of this meeting is on HR's 'Resilience through Change' and personal and professional development is a key theme of the agenda. In the meantime, the HPMA have also begun to share some development opportunities with London members and we will explore how we can work together and potentially benefit from their HR academy programme.

I have also had the privilege of helping to raise the profile of the PPMA as a speaker at HR events such as the recent Guardian public sector HR Summit. I hope that I will be able to contribute more in this vein in the near future.

Throughout the year, it has been clear that all members have been grappling hard with the challenges facing our organisations during this unprecedented era of savings cuts and consequent downsizing. Changes proposed for London Councils and Capital Ambition include proposals to significantly reduce resources and capacity to support workforce and employer issues. I also responded to the formal consultation as Chair of the London Region to express concern that support for HR and workforce issues is maintained as employment and workforce issues have such a key role in the future of the public sector.

I have also begun consultation with the London PPMA members on how future meetings might develop and priorities. A mix of business items, development, case-studies and best practice sessions together with opportunities for sharing and professional networking are valued member priorities.

My priority for the London Region going forward is to work closely with members, HR colleagues and the PPMA Board to:

- explore new opportunities for networking with colleagues across the public sector in London
- continue to boost and maintain active membership levels
- enhance networking and development opportunities within and outside of the formal meetings
- ensure meeting agendas are timely and always geared towards the current member priorities.

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