

London Annual Report

Regional Chair: Tracey Connage, Assistant Director, People and Development (LB of Brent)

Throughout the year, it has been clear that all members have continued to be grappling hard with the challenges facing our organisations during this unprecedented era of savings cuts and consequent downsizing. It has also proved to be a challenging year for the region and our members have struggled to attend regional events. Despite the challenges we held three interesting and successful events this year:

In March we held an event on the theme of HR's 'Resilience through Change' with a focus on members personal and professional development issues. Kevin Croft, now President of our sister NHS organisation the HPMA attended the regional meeting to discuss and share potential opportunities for closer networking and collaboration between our regions. Two other speakers covered sessions on presentation skills and a very intriguing and timely session entitled "the dark side of personality" – this examined negative personality and leadership traits and the implications for people and organisations under stress. One lucky participant 'won' a freebie diagnostic of a personality assessment tool.

Our summer meeting focused on future 'HR delivery models – transform, integrate or share'? Martin Rayson, Vice President and former chair of PPMA Transformation Network provided a comprehensive, challenging and stimulating presentation on the key issues and options in planning future ways of transforming HR service delivery and functions. Participants were able to discuss and share current challenges and potential solutions for HR delivery in their organisations.

PPMA President, Anne Gibson was the guest speaker at our December meeting. While the format was very much a cosy fireside chat with the group the content of her presentation proved to be a global, yet forensic perspective on the myriad of changes affecting the public sector workforce agenda. Anne nimbly steered the group through a discussion about the pace and scale of change impacting if not transforming public sector services and organisations and the implications for public sector HR professionals and services. The attending group were left to feel inspired, if not a little overwhelmed but reassured that the PPMA has really impressive leadership in the strategic HR debate.

The London PPMA region continues to work closely with our neighbours in the South East PPMA. Throughout the year we have promoted invitations to attend South East events. This will take another step this year with the agreement to hold joint events for London and South East PPMA members. The first of these joint events will take place in May.

To bolster capacity and involvement throughout the PPMA the Board are encouraging all chairs and lead officers to 'recruit' deputies. As a priority we will be looking for nominations for regional members who are interested in taken on a deputy role. So, 'calling London members' – let us know if you would like to get involved as a deputy ...

Tracey Connage FCIPD

Assistant Director, People & Development