

West Midlands Region

Chair Jo Evans – Seconded to Dudley MBC from Wolverhampton CC
Secretary Raffaella Goodby – Birmingham CC

Elected as Regional Chair since March 2011, with Raffaella Goodby elected as Secretary since March 2011.

West Midlands Activity

During March 2011 we had two very interesting presentations from Luann Donald from the LGE on Managing Older Workers, Extending Working Lives on Changes in Law and advice from Employers and from the West Midlands Pension Fund from the Pension Perspective. Shropshire CC volunteered to be a case study with a suggestion that an employee guide would be useful.

Due to these times of austerity a question was raised on advice regarding multiple contracts and redundancy pay. Luann Donald from the LGE offered to provide written examples which would prove to be very useful for the region.

In June 2011 we had a thought provoking presentation from Bridget Clark from Worcestershire CC on West Midlands Buying Power in terms of having 33 authorities within the West Midlands Region who are in a position to influence on buying services in bulk to access better discounts. Jonathon Jones from the IEWM also provided a presentation to assist with procurement and a website link to the west midlands hub.

On 22 September 2011 in conjunction with West Midlands Councils hosted an Employment Law update event with esteemed Barrister Daniel Barnett. The event was well attended by HR Professionals and Legal Eagles which provided an informative update on current and pending employment law as well as being provided with the top 10 tips for losing at an employment tribunal. The PPMA September quarterly meeting then followed on from the employment law event. The region was visited by Adam Barker from the LGG to provided a presentation on identifying changes that have happened to the LGG and how this has an impact on the support they will be able to offer in the future to Councils. Michelle Cartwright from West Midlands Councils also provided an update on pay negotiations for 2012 with no big surprises that most authorities were recommending no offer. The LGG were also undertaking guidance for the older worker and stated the guidance would be ready soon. North Warwickshire BC were put forward for a case study.

The December 2011 meeting was held at the west midlands pension fund in Wolverhampton. There were presentations from the Anne Dokov, PPMA Lead on Equalities and Diversity, the Coventry and Warwickshire Mentoring Pilot from Karen Warren, Warwick DC. A Presentation on Auto enrolment was also conducted by the West Midlands Pension Fund as well as an update on Epaycheck from West Midlands Councils.

In March 2012 the posts of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary will be up for nomination once again.

Our Membership in the region is on the increase particularly with Birmingham CC now coming on board but currently there is a slight decline in overall numbers from 2010.

Jo Evans
PPMA Chair - West Midlands Region