

———— 2026 ————

PPMA EXCELLENCE IN PEOPLE MANAGEMENT AWARDS

SHORTLISTED ENTRIES

Awards Evening Dinner
Thursday 23rd April 2026
The Hilton Birmingham Metropole NEC

Thank You & Congratulations

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry this year. We're delighted to have received more entries than last year, a true reflection of the outstanding work of HR and OD teams across the sector.

Congratulations and best of luck to all shortlisted nominations. We look forward to welcoming you to our PPMA Awards Gala Dinner, held alongside our Annual Conference in April in Birmingham.

Spaces are in high demand – visit our website for more information and to book your place.

BOOK NOW

Thank you to our Judges

Our sincere thanks to our independent panel of expert judges

Juliette Alban-Metcalf

Chief Executive
Real World Group

Claudia Beaumont

Strategic HR Business Partner
Wiltshire Council
PPMA Joint Peer Winner 2025

Sam Betts

Assistant Director – HR & OD
Salford City Council
PPMA Ambassador

Julie Biggs

Awards & Talent Programme Manager
PPMA

Trudy Birtwell

Director of Learning
Solace

Swati Bisht-Rawat

Head of Talent, Performance & Innovation
Westminster City Council
PPMA Ambassador

Natasha Brown

Vice President
PPMA

Steve Davies

Treasurer & Past President
PPMA

Rebecca Davis

Chief Executive
West Midlands Employers

Sandra Farquharson

Director of HR & OD
Hackney Council
PPMA President Elect

Cheryl Graham

HR Director & Regional Employer Secretary
London Councils
PPMA Joint Peer Winner 2025

Nadira Hussain

Chief Executive
Socitm

Heather Jameson

Editor
The MJ

Akddus Khan

Strategic Workforce Partner
Oldham Council
HR Rising Star Winner 2025

Rebecca Lea

Head of Workforce Collaboration
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
PPMA Ambassador

Thank you to our Judges

Victoria Lee

HR Consultant & Coach
PPMA Ambassador

Molly Lucas

Senior Organisational Development Associate
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Clive Mallon

Organisational Development Manager
Somerset County Council

Nichola Mann

Service Manager – People & OD
Brentwood Borough Council &
Rochford District Council
PPMA Vice President

Hannah Mason

Head of Resourcing & Relations
Central Bedfordshire Council
PPMA Peer into the Future 2024

Gordon McFarlane

Director of HR & OD
London Borough of Newham
PPMA Past President

Marie Mettam

HR Consultant & Change Advisor
PPMA Ambassador

Caroline Nugent

HR Executive consultant for NuGenHR
PPMA Ambassador

Maxine O'Mahoney

Chief Executive
Breckland Council

Pam Parkes

Commissioner
Birmingham City Council
PPMA President 2024-2026

Barry Pirie

Sponsorship Manager
PPMA

Nimisha Patel

Senior HR Consultant – Policy & Projects
OneSource
PPMA Ambassador

Neisha Porter

Head of OD & Internal Communications
Richmond & Wandsworth Councils
PPMA Ambassador

Helen Scott

Executive Director
UHR

Chris Twigg

Chief Executive
Inner Circle Consulting

Steve Walker-Whitehead

Director of People, Equality & OD
London Borough of Hounslow
PPMA Vice President

Award Categories

Best Creative Concept Recruitment Campaign

Best Candidate Experience

Public Sector HR & OD Team of the Year 2026

Best Organisation Development Programme

Best use of Technology and Data

Best Workforce Transformation / Change Initiative

Best Health & Wellbeing Initiative

Best Employer & Trade Unions / Employee Partnership

Best Learning & Development Award

Best Talent Programme

Best Inclusion & Diversity Programme / Initiative

Best Partnership / Collaboration

Gold Award

Best Creative Concept Recruitment Campaign

Sponsored by The MJ



Shortlisted

Fostering Southwest and Penna

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

Salford City Council

Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Best Candidate Experience

Sponsored by My Money Matters



Shortlisted

Connect2Hackney / London Borough of Hackney

Real World Group & The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

Royal Borough of Kingston and London Borough of Sutton

SIS, The Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) with Penna

Southwark Council

Wigan Council

Best Public Sector HR & OD Team of the Year 2026

Sponsored by Tribepad



Shortlisted

Birmingham City Council

CMP Solutions on behalf of University of Manchester

Leicester City Council

London Borough of Newham

The Strategic Centre for Talent, Learning and Organisational Development

Sheffield City Council

Somerset Council

Westmorland and Furness Council HR & OD Team

Wigan Council

Best Organisation Development Programme

Shortlisted

Islington Council

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

London Borough of Sutton

Norfolk County Council

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Salford City Council

Best use of Technology and Data

Sponsored by Matrix



Shortlisted

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Leicester City Council

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

Best Workforce Transformation / Change Initiative

Sponsored by Indeed



Shortlisted

Buckinghamshire Council

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS)
Gloucestershire County Council

London Borough of Hounslow

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Runnymede Borough Council and Real World Group

Best Health & Wellbeing Initiative

Shortlisted

Leicester City Council

London Borough of Harrow

Norfolk County Council

Walsall Council

Westmorland and Furness Council

Wigan Council

Best Employer & Trade Unions / Employee Partnership

Shortlisted

Birmingham City Council

Oxfordshire County Council

Sheffield City Council

Best Learning & Development Award

Sponsored by Commercial Services Group



Shortlisted

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

London Borough of Newham Council

Norfolk County Council

Plymouth City Council

Best Talent Programme

Shortlisted

Birmingham City Council

London Borough of Newham

Richmond and Wandsworth Councils and Bailey & French

Stevenage Borough Council

Best Inclusion & Diversity Programme / Initiative

Sponsored by McLean Public



Shortlisted

Birmingham City Council

Buckinghamshire Council

CMP Solutions on behalf of The King's Fund

London Borough of Hackney

London Borough of Newham

Salford City Council

Westmorland and Furness Council

Wigan Council

Best Partnership / Collaboration

Sponsored by Zellis



Shortlisted

Durham County Council, North East Ambulance Service

Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)

London Borough of Newham / Adecco

Sheffield City Council

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

West Midland Employers with Tribepad

GOLD AWARD

The ultimate accolade of the evening, awarded to the overall winner selected from all category winners. It celebrates the entry that sets the benchmark for excellence in people management.

The Silver and Bronze Awards are presented to the exceptional runner-up entries that have also demonstrated remarkable excellence and impact.

The winners will be announced at our Awards Evening Dinner

Thursday 23rd April
The Hilton Birmingham Metropole NEC

BOOK NOW