

LGPS Training Focus Group minutes

24 January 2023

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| Attendees | 1 |
| Apologies for absence | 1 |
| Minutes of the last meeting | 1 |
| LGA training report | 2 |
| Views on LGPS specific qualification/apprenticeship..... | 2 |
| Employer service | 3 |
| Administering authority training | 3 |
| Commissioned training | 3 |
| Any other business | 3 |
| Date of next meeting..... | 3 |

Attendees

- Lisa Clarkson - Local Government Association (LGA)
- Karl White - Local Government Association (LGA)
- Jon Clewes - Nottinghamshire Pension Fund
- Teresa Eaton-Watts – East Riding of Yorkshire Pension Fund
- Heidi Catherall - Cheshire Pension Fund
- Lindsey Davison - South Tyneside
- Amanda Jupp - Surrey Pension Fund
- Melissa McCarthy – Peninsula Pensions
- Debbie Sharp – Shropshire Pension Fund
- Kevin Gerard – Dyfed Pension Fund
- Martin Doyle – Wandsworth Pension Fund
- Debbie Patten – Southwark Pension Fund

Apologies for absence

- None

Minutes of the last meeting

Karl White talked through the actions from the last meeting. He confirmed most courses are advertised as online with a limited face to face offering. Lisa Clarkson is

running a rolling programme of employer role courses. Karl confirmed that all online sessions are advertised as camera on and delegates are reminded of this throughout the course. The question of apprenticeships in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is included on the meeting agenda.

LGA training report

Karl White reported since the last meeting two Insight courses have been run, one in Eastbourne and one commissioned course for the Wales group in Caernarfon. Eleven practitioner training days have been delivered on Pensions Tax - two face to face in Liverpool and London, one commissioned face to face and eight on-line. He reminded the group of the commissioning option.

Lisa Clarkson confirmed five online employer role days have been delivered. Fundamentals governance training events in October, November and December 2022 and the Governance Conference in January 2023.

Views on LGPS specific qualification/apprenticeship

Karl White asked for views on the potential provision of a specific LGPS apprenticeship and/or qualification given the session at Torquay and general interest in this area. Experience was shared on the current pensions administration apprenticeship with West Yorkshire Pension Fund and Cheshire Pension Fund. This route having been used with the Chartered Institute of Payroll Providers (CIPP) Certificate in Pensions Administration qualification. The business apprenticeship has also been successfully used, though with no specific pension element by Shropshire Pension Fund. Regional problems with the providers and assessors emerged. The LGPS pensions qualification offered by CIPP is being wound up.

There was a feeling that the LGA might be well placed to support this area. Initial investigation by the LGA indicates the setup of a new apprenticeship could potentially take years. The group indicated the need is urgent and action is very much desired in this area. Members of the group also offered support.

Karl stated the LGA is happy to investigate both routes to see what is feasible.

Action

- Karl White to discuss with Heidi Catherall (Cheshire Pension Fund) and Yunus Gajra (West Yorkshire Pension Fund)
- LGA to canvass the LGPS community for their views on the topics and decide on further steps, reporting back at the next meeting

Employer service

Lisa Clarkson confirmed employer role courses are scheduled to take place monthly from April to November with two face to face courses planned. More employer specific bitesize training is also planned with ill health training for employers to be published soon.

Action

- LGA to offer a rolling programme of monthly employer role courses

Administering authority training

Karl White reported that although face to face is valued by representatives of the focus group this is not reflected in the take up. Melissa McCarthy mentioned Peninsula Pensions do not allow travel to face to face training and this might be the same elsewhere.

Karl asked if the Pension Officer Groups (POGs) could collate their Fund's requirements and request face to face training directly from the LGA, also suggesting the best venue. He mentioned previously hosts have received a free place on the training if they provided the venue with lunch and refreshments, this is a possibility moving forward.

Action

- Training to be added to POG agendas
- Future face to face training to be offered regionally where requested by POGs

Commissioned training

Karl White confirmed the LGA is happy to consider any requests received from individual Funds.

Any other business

None

Date of next meeting

20 July 2023