

Public and Not-for-Profit Sector Community Panel Notes

MEETING: Public and Not-for-Profit Sector Community Panel Meeting

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams Meeting

DATE: Wednesday 5 September 2023

TIME: 14:30 – 16:00

ATTENDEES: Sugar Ahmed, Steph Beeston-Clarke, Evans Chisala, Lip Sy Choo, Claire Jenkins, Bridget Foley (ACCA head of advocacy), Michelle Gurung, Sidra Harris, Anna Hudson, Angela Ireland, Jon Maddams (ACCA business development manager), Alia O'Callaghan, Chibuzo Okpala, Lloyd Powell (ACCA Strategic Engagement Lead for Wales) Dani Saghafi, Lindsey Stephenson (ACCA member communities officer), Melanie Venes (ACCA sector lead), Dinusha Weerawardane.

APOLOGIES: Kevin Ellis, Deep Shah, Svetla Taneva

Introductions, welcome to new panel members.

Panel members re-affirmed that they had read and understood the panel principles which govern the purpose of the group and the conduct of members.

Overview of the sector

A presentation outlining work done in the sector since the previous meeting was shared with the panel:

Talking Series Summary (recordings can be found here
<https://www.youtube.com/@acc auk6947/playlists>)

Key	Number	Notes
Total registrations for sessions	114	NB this contains some duplicates, i.e. some people registered for both sessions
Number of attendees	45	NB this contains some duplicates, i.e. some people registered for both sessions
Conversion rate	39%	
Number of panel members who attended	4	Angela Ireland, Evans Chisala, Kevin Ellis, Sugar Ahmed
Number of Council members who attended	3	Dinusha Weeawardane, Liz Blackburn, Ronnie Patton
Number of sponsors who attended	3	Angela Ireland, Evans Chisala, Kevin Ellis
Number of existing LinkedIn connections	17	15% already known to me via LinkedIn – this percentage will hopefully grow over the series
Number of new connections gained	4	1 NFP; 1 Local Govt; 2 Education – this number will hopefully grow over the series

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Number not found on LinkedIn	41	36% of registrants – we need to look at other ways of connecting with members in the sector
Feedback on future topics*		IT in Local Government, Information security & cyber-attacks - lessons to be learnt.
Feedback on potential partners*		Local Government Ombudsman, SOCITM (under-investment in IT was touched upon in the session)

*Unfortunately we did not receive a lot of completed feedback forms for these sessions but we will continue to highlight them in future discussions.

Thursday 7 September talking Public Sector – Charity and Not-for-Profit Sector had 79 delegates registered with 36 attending on the day.

Upcoming date: Thursday 21 September Talking Public Sector – Central Government Special 46 booked to date.

Partnerships

Key partnerships have been built with [LG Improve](#), [British Universities Finance Directors Group](#) (BUFDG) and the [Charity Finance Group](#) (CFG) We are also in discussion with the National Housing Federation to develop a more formal partnership. In discussions with BUFDG the issue of whether universities belong in the public sector was raised and will be for future discussion – Anna raised the fact that the ONS are doing some work in this area which should be complete by the end of the year. I will be attending the CFG technical update to gain knowledge and potential speakers for our work supporting members in the sector.

Panel name change

Based on feedback from members, and to reflect the large percentage of not-for-profit members in the public sector in the UK, the panel will now be known as the “Public and Not-for-Profit Sector Community Panel”. The UK LinkedIn group’s name has also been updated.

Website update

A dedicated public sector hub is being developed and will be the one-stop-shop for everything related to the public sector.

Face-to-face meetings

The Link Up programme has enabled a meeting in London run by Sugar, members of the panel are encouraged to run their own events in their own areas, more details here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3fbxcsmn>

Sugar will be running another Link Up on 27 September at the [Antwerp Arms](#) in London.

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Discussion and Insight from Panel members

Key points discussed in the meeting:

- sending a survey of current trends to members via Microsoft Forms
- holding one face-to-face panel meeting a year, with informal “coffee catch ups” in between
- getting more involved in ACCA’s policy work, which includes attending party conferences, working with MPs and ministers and leading strategic engagement in England, Scotland and Wales, initially via the member insights group (security settings allowing)
- the importance of involving school leavers and young people in promoting the attractiveness of the profession
- a suggested discussion around whether universities sit within the public sector, depending on their funding. BUFDG are interested in being part of the debate.
- keeping in touch via WhatsApp – Angela agreed to add those who were willing to share their numbers
- more support and training for finance business partners in the sector is needed (this will be touched on in the [“Talking Public Sector”](#) discussion on 21/9/23)
- the need to showcase ACCA’s public sector offering better
- recruitment issues caused by lower wage offerings and long recruitment lead times
- crumbling concrete is likely to be more widespread across sector buildings
- social mobility and the leveling up agenda

Agreed next steps and actions

Action	Action Owner	Status
Develop the “Talking Series” working with panel members on issues raised in pre-meeting research	Astrid Spink with relevant panel members	
Invite Lorna Williamson to the December meeting to share her work on early careers	Astrid Spink	
Check in with Anna and the ONS re work on whether universities are public sector bodies	Astrid Spink	
Share information on the 2024 TECA awards to encourage members to get involved	Claire Jenkins	
Join the Member Insight Community to get involved in policy work https://bit.ly/3TIXV1Q	The panel	
Join the panel “WhatsApp” group if appropriate – send your number to Astrid to share with Angela	The panel	

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5 December 14:30 – 16:00 via Teams*

*meeting timings will be reviewed for 2024 to try and avoid issues such as after school pick-ups.