Public and Not-for-Profit Sector Community Panel Notes

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

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams Meeting

DATE: Tuesday 5 December 2023

TIME: 14:30 – 16:00

ATTENDEES: Elaine Boyd; Evans Chisala; Kevin Ellis; Bridget Foley (ACCA member advocacy manager); Christine Hellings; Anna Hudson; Claire Jenkins; Peter Lewis; Anna Mylvaganam; Alia O'Callaghan; Chibuzo Okpala; Lloyd Powell (ACCA strategic engagement lead, Wales) Dinusha Weerawardane

APOLOGIES: (based on the meeting invitation tracker) Steph Beeston-Clarke; Nadeem Hanif; Dani Saghafi; Maryam Khan

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 and were reminded that this includes the following:

Responsibilities of individual sector panel members - All individuals have a duty in discharging their responsibilities as members of the sector panel and to:

•   come prepared to contribute and engage with ACCA members you represent

Overview of sector activities – Talking Series

Key	Number	Notes
Total registrations for sessions	239	NB this contains some duplicates, i.e. some people registered for both sessions
Number of attendees	90	NB this contains some duplicates, i.e. some people registered for both sessions
Conversion rate	38%	Need more help from sponsor(s) to promote their sessions and encourage attendance – will be providing suggested text for social media and emails

Recordings of all the presentations can be found here:
https://www.youtube.com/@accauk6947/playlists *please do promote these resources to your colleagues and networks.*

A more detailed overview of activities within each sub-sector will be attached separately by email.

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Discussion and Insight from Panel members

Key points discussed in the meeting:

- a proposed face-to-face meeting in June, likely to be around Volunteers' Week, to bring together all sectors. The panel were asked for suggestions for a venue as The Adelphi will not be large enough to host the meeting, which is likely to take place in London
- sponsor(s) need to be more active in promoting the session(s) with which they are involved, support with promotional materials will be provided
- the panel discussed more informal communication between formal panel meetings. It was suggested that panel members take turns to run a monthly catch up around short panel introductions and a chat around current issues. Anna, Elaine, Christine, Dinusha, Kevin, Alia, Evans and Peter all supported the idea. Days and times will vary for each meeting to try and accommodate as many panel members as possible.
- panel members also agreed to use the WhatsApp group as a way of keeping in touch between meetings
- IFRS16 continues to be an issue of concern, especially given the complications it generates around the forecast budgeting perspective
- the panel to join the insight community for tailored alerts on upcoming policy work
- audits are becoming increasingly costly and complicated. Panel members felt strongly that there had been an increase in the number of questions and a subsequent increase in workload. There was a concern that increases in standards imposed as a result of failure in the private sector were unfairly penalizing audits in the public sector.
- "free" childcare offered in the recent budget is not really free as providers have not been given an injection of funds to provide childcare services. This will have a knock-on effect on parents returning to work and therefore on the labour shortage
- it was suggested a Talking Series discussion cover the police's response to cybercrime
- face-to-face regional meetings were discussed. Some panel members have run Link Up and they have had a poor turnout, despite the strong demand for face-to-face events. It was suggested the panel persevere with Link Ups and then take stock
- the panel agreed that they needed greater visibility and to know each other better – the webpage needs updating with photos and bios
- Claire shared that she had secured ACCA's presence at the annual Association of Law Enforcement Forensic Accountants (ALEFA) conference

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Agreed next steps and actions

Action	Action Owner	Status
Check with HMRC in Stratford re the possibility of hiring their venue for the June face-to-face meeting	Claire Jenkins	
Work with Talking Series Sponsor(s) to provide them with marketing materials to promote the session with which they are involved	Astrid Spink	
Create a spreadsheet to be used a rota for informal monthly panel catch ups, as suggested in the meeting	Astrid Spink	Spreadsheet emailed with these minutes
Panel to notify me if they would like me to share their contact details with Angela Ireland to join the panel WhatsApp group	The panel	
Follow up with continuous learning regarding a course on IFRS16	Astrid Spink	Ongoing – raising the issue with the continuous learning team
Join the Member Insight Community to get involved in policy work https://bit.ly/3TlXV1Q	The panel	
Astrid to work with Elaine, Kevin, Alia and Jo Malvern to write an article for AB Magazine on the issue of increasingly complex and expensive audits	Astrid, Jo Malvern, Elaine Boyd, Kevin Ellis, Alia O'Callaghan	Ongoing – the topic has been discussed with Jo and a journalist will be commissioned.
Evans to check with colleagues at South Yorkshire Police regarding the availability of a speaker on Cybercrime for the Talking Series	Evans	Ongoing – details of what is required have been shared
Panel members to provide photos and short bios for their panel member webpage (https://www.accaglobal.com/uk/en/member/member-networks/uk-networks/Sector-community-panels/public-sector-panel.html)	Panel members who have not yet provided photos or bios	
Astrid to work with Peter Lewis and Housing Regulator contacts to build a Talking Series session around the Housing Regulator	Astrid Spink and Peter Lewis	

Date of next formal panel meeting*

Monday 4 March 2024 – 10:30 to 12:00

*Informal monthly catch ups to occur before this