Public Sector Community Panel Notes

MEETING: Public Sector Community Panel Meeting

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams Meeting

DATE: Wednesday 8 March 2023

TIME: 14:30 – 16:00

ATTENDEES: Alia O'Callaghan; Sidra Harris; Ben Bulman; Chibuzo Okpala (Chair); Svetla Taneva; Angela Ireland; Kevin Ellis; Evans Chisala; Claire Jenkins; Peter Lewis; Christine Hellings. ACCA staff: Lloyd Powell (head of ACCA Wales), Astrid Spink (Sector and communities manager); Melanie Venes (Sector Lead)

APOLOGIES: Anna Hudson; Deep Shah; Nadeem Hanif; Sugar Ahmed; Steph Beeston-Clarke; Rekha Tailor; Brian Pine; Kevin Benjamin; Anna Mylvaganam; Edith Yembra

Introductions, welcome to new panel members.

Panel members confirmed 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 the numbers and make-up of the sector, and the key issues facing it, was shared with the panel.

- as of January 2023 there are 8,700 members and 332 affiliates in the UK public sector
- 32% of members in the sector work in the not-for-profit sector, 28% in higher education, 20% in local government and 20% in central government
- 35% of affiliates in the sector work in the not-for-profit sector, 31% in higher education, 20% in local government and 14% in national government

The most common issues were talent recruitment and retention and funding, these themes were common across all the sub-sectors within the public sector.

Guest presenter

Lloyd Powell, head of ACCA Wales, presented an overview of the work of the Strategic Engagement team and how panel members can get involved.

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Discussion and insight from panel members

The panel discussed the following points:

- understanding the needs of members in the sector – what issues have you heard about "on the ground"?
- what does community look like to you?
- how can we strengthen our public sector community in the UK?
- working with relevant partners to promote the importance of the sector, build our brand and visibility of members

The group discussed face-to-face events and how competitors were running these again. Astrid explained that ACCA were using the "LinkUp" format to bring members together across the regions and that a Sector and Communities Manager would be allocated to different regions to assist in running an event. Partnerships are also being used to facilitate face-to-face networking opportunities.

The public sector conference this year will be a global virtual one, planned to be held in November

Agreed next steps

Activities the panel agreed to take part in:

- join the Member Insight Community at https://bit.ly/3TlXV1Q
- work together to produce an article on funding issues in the public sector
- provide links to employers to support the Business Development team
- provide suggestions for public sector awards and other partnerships to help promote ACCA members in the public sector
- support ACCA's work in promoting the benefits of working in the public sector

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5 September 14:30 – 16:00 via Teams