



West Yorkshire Group **Chair: Paul Laxton**

The 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance West Yorkshire Group will be held at 14.00 on Thursday 19 March 2026 the PCS offices, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8NG.

AGENDA

1. Chair's welcome and introductory remarks
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held in March 2025
3. Reports from West Yorkshire Group Officers
4. Review of CSPA status (GC 981 26 refers. See membership section in website)
5. Election of Officers
6. Guest Speaker: Andy Aitchison, North East Regional Representative
7. MOTION:

This AGM expresses its disappointment that the Group as it stands is no longer viable owing to a shortage of Group Officers, and poor attendances which means that the Group has little democratic accountability to the membership.

This AGM therefore resolves that the West Yorkshire Group be mothballed until March 2027 when a fresh AGM will be scheduled.

This AGM approves the placing of a 'winding up' motion on the agenda for the 2027 AGM.

This AGM extends the term of office of current committee members for one year, (for those who wish to continue) so that any outstanding financial business can be concluded and contact with HQ and members maintained.

Chair's Notes

In the happy event of the Group remaining viable, the above motion may be withdrawn by the meeting. Viability will be determined by the election of a full committee, with all the key posts being filled, and there being sufficient interest from members to permit the Group to operate democratically and hold the Committee to account. The Committee will hold its own meeting at 1 PM to discuss the potential outcomes.

8. Provisional dates and times of future meetings (falls if motion carried)

Thursday 11 June 2026

Thursday 10 September 2026

Thursday 10 December 2026

All of these will commence at 14.00 hours

9. Any Other Business (falls if motion carried). Please notify prior to start of meeting

VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS

If the Group continues, the Committee has determined that the annual voluntary subscription rate should remain at £10 per annum. We would ask you to donate via your bank. You can do this online or at your own branch, and if you are feeling really generous, set up an annual standing order. If £10 is too much, feel free to donate whatever you feel is affordable.

The bank details are:

Payee CSPA West Yorkshire Group

Bank Virgin Money

Address 94-96 Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NP

Account number 17518291

Sort code 05-05-35

You are advised to wait until the outcome of this year's AGM which will determine whether or not the Group should be mothballed before paying voluntary subscriptions. To those of you not attending the meeting, the outcome will be publicised in The Pensioner. In the event of the Group suspending operations, voluntary subscriptions will not be sought this year.

Minutes of the CSPA West Yorkshire Group AGM Wednesday 19.03.2025

Venue: PCS Leeds, Town Centre House, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY

Agenda

Attending: John Welham, Jean Ainsworth, Christine Marks, Richard Marks, Alan Swift, Geoffrey Wood, David Parkinson, Steve Dodd

Apologies: Paul Laxton

1. Chair's welcome and introductory remarks

In Paul Laxton's absence, Steve Dodd took the chair; he welcomed the members attending and the guest speaker, Fran Postlethwaite. Steve noted the continued problems with notices for these meetings. Some members reported having two, others had not received a notice at all. Paul has frequently raised this with HQ and will do so again.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held in March 2024

These were circulated and agreed

3. Reports from West Yorkshire Group Officers

Steve reported that the group's viability is an ongoing concern. Two of the agenda items relate to that issue. But we have continued to hold meetings over the past year and issued newsletters to members. Paul Laxton and Alan Swift attended the 2014 national AGM to represent the group. Alan gave a report on finances and membership. Group finances are stable; there was a surplus of £200 in 2024 and donations are coming in; the present balance is £1,456. Membership – those noted by CSPA HQ as attached to WY Group – is 675. Steve thanked Liz Hardy for auditing of the group's accounts, and John Welham for arranging that.

4. Election of Officers

Paul sent a message that he would be willing to stand for Group Chair again. Other members of the Committee said they would be willing to continue: Steve Dodd (secretary); Alan Swift (Treasurer); David Parkinson and John Welham. The meeting agreed that all those offering to stand would be elected.

5. CSPA Group and Branch Consultation on proposed trial of all-member ballots to elect Executive Council posts

The proposed response from the group, attached to the agenda, was agreed. In summary the group broadly supports the ballot proposal, but questions whether it will increase participation. The group also prefers that the Regional EC member should come from the region.

6. Consideration of the Framework for the Governance of Local Groups (GC 966 25)

The circular from HQ was available at the meeting. This prompted a discussion on ways to attract more of the membership to meetings. Guest speakers on topics of interest are one obvious way – but despite several apparently attractive topics offered, numbers have been low. Committee members will have to consider this in organising forthcoming meetings and also whether providing food would help. David Parkinson asked if expanding the range of interests of the group might help attract members, for example discussing and campaigning on a wider range of local and national topics. That could be discussed with our regional EC member.

7. Guest Speaker: Fran Postlethwaite, Yorkshire and Humberside Pensioners' Convention

With the meeting's agreement Fran spoke first, before the main AGM business. Fran gave an outline of the work of the regional group. It is affiliated to the National Pensioners Convention, but has a great deal of autonomy. And like the national group it aims to deal with issue for both current and future pensioners. YHPC covers a great number of political and social issues – most will be familiar to CSPA members and civil servants generally. Much of the activity is campaigning – lobbying politicians as well as raising awareness. The NPC newsletter and website has more detail <https://www.npcuk.org/>.

For example, YHPC held a demonstration against the withdrawal of the winter fuel payment and plans further activity. Other current areas of focus are fuel poverty and transport. YHPC holds quarterly meetings to discuss and review activity: in Leeds (April & October); Scarborough (July); and South Yorkshire (January). A number of working groups organise to pursue specific topics. Fran's presentation prompted a range of questions and comments which those attending found interesting and useful. Steve thanked Fran on behalf of the group.

8. Any other business

The was no other business for the meeting.

Next group meeting dates

Wednesday 11 June 2025

Wednesday 10 September 2025

Wednesday 10 December 2025 *[later cancelled]*

Minutes taken by Steve Dodd

Final note: You may not be aware that the National Pensioners Convention has wound itself up, or that more than half of CSPA Groups are now inactive. Without the CSPA, there would be no significant representative body to lobby parliament on behalf of retired civil servants so that MPs hold My CSP to account for the pensions payment mess they have handed over, and Capita for doing a modern impersonation of Ethelred the Unready. Support your local group and help keep the CSPA alive.