

Sheffield, Lincoln & Districts Group Newsletter – Summer 2026

Summer Meeting – 18th June 2026 – Starts 2 p.m. *in the Hilton Room, Sheffield Cathedral (behind the Cathedral Tram Stop)*. We gather from 1.30 p.m.

Welcome to our June Newsletter. I'm really sorry, but as ever, due to limited space, we can't include the meeting Agenda, and other reports included in the full email Newsletter. These will be available at the Meeting, in the Secretarial Report. Please let the Group Secretary know if you need an advance hard copy – contact details below.

There's always a friendly, inclusive atmosphere at our meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

Forthcoming Meetings - Thursday 24th September, Thursday 17th December, (*all in the Hilton Room, Sheffield Cathedral - please make a note in your diary*)

A message from our Group Chair – Mike Buckley

Phew! Hot, innit!



June approaches, and with it, Summer. Not only nice warm sunny days ahead, but also the end of June is promised by Capita as the date by which key backlogs in pensions admin will have been cleared. Let's hope so. CSPA nationally is certainly maintaining the pressure on Cabinet Office and Parliamentarians. Indeed, we are getting tremendous support from the Committee of Public Accounts (PAC) and especially their Deputy Chair. Clive Betts MP for Sheffield South East is working closely with CSPA and is using effectively the detailed briefings we are providing. This dreadful problem must be resolved and quickly.

CSPA is proving its value. Protecting What You Have Earned is such an apt tag-line. Members are taking full advantage of the benefits being in CSPA brings. Less fortunate are those who hadn't joined - but CSPA is giving them what general advice we can. It's rather like insurance: it's a cost right up to the moment you need it!

So: If you know someone who could be in CSPA, ask them now if they are a member. If they aren't then surely this pension admin problem shows why they should be.

Also: is your spouse a joint member of CSPA? This provides help against the eventuality that the survivor benefits our pensions provide gets into difficulty. Hopefully not, but you never know!

Whilst the contract hand over from MyCSP to Capita is repeating past chaos on contract transition, and providing a welcome spike in CSPA membership (15 new members in our own Group!), CSPA is not being complacent. We are identifying ways of recruiting new members that local Groups can take. Asking you to recruit a friend is one basic way, but recruitment is too important to get round to it tomorrow. Your ideas here are most welcome!

Happily, the Group's Committee was re-elected at our AGM. The vote of confidence is most welcome of course. But doesn't necessarily bode well for renewal and succession. If you would like to explore – without commitment – how to get a little more involved in local CSPA, please get in touch.

Now, back to the sunshade.

Mike

Report of Group Annual General Meeting – 19th March 2026

Firstly, my apologies for having to miss the AGM due to attending my mother's funeral in Dorset. Secondly, my thanks to colleagues for providing the report below and the photos featured in the Newsletter.

Mike has kindly provided the following note of the meeting:

- The Group Accounts were agreed.
- Group Elections – the following candidates were elected:
 - Officers - Chair: Mike Buckley, Secretary: John Houghton, Treasurer: Linda Garner, Membership Secretary: Linda Woollen,
 - Committee Members – Andy Aitchison, Stephen Anderson, Martin Hodgson, Les Priestley, Judith Roe, Beryl Wardley
 - Auditors – Brenda Pinhorn, Judith Roe
- It was agreed to increase the Committee size from 10 to 12 members.
- It was agreed that the Group Executive Committee should appoint a Deputy Chair to serve until a formal election for that post is held at the 2027 AGM.



Martin Hodgson's China Presentation was fascinating! In language, pronunciation and context really matters to the meaning. Given that the Imperial Court, many centuries ago, had a kangaroo, they must have known about Australia. Identity Cards a key part of life, making things so much simpler for citizens. Surveillance Rules! President Xi's strategy is to make people comfortable, hence stable. Pensions, state and company, a relatively recent (20 years) introduction.

Group Issues:

- Lincoln: strong support and willingness to go there to be available.
- Recruitment: the room was surprised, and saw the sense of spouses/survivor beneficiaries joining CSPA in their own interests as they will benefit from the CSPA

protection of what has been earned. Worth bringing this to members' attention to encourage their pertinence to join.

- CSPA Status consultation: key importance of getting the democratic structures and processes actually in place from the outset discussed and agreed. A key point to make in the Consultation Meetings.

National Issues;

CSPA HQ has focussed on protecting members suffering, as a result of CAPITA's appalling administration of our pension entitlements.

Group Executive Committee Meeting Report (14th May 2026)



We warmly welcome 15 new CSPA members to our Group:
We hope you all enjoy your membership.

The Group Executive Committee met, via Zoom, on 14th May to review Group progress and agree recommendations for future activity. The key action points were:

The Future Status of CSPA

A meeting had been arranged by HQ in Manchester as our location to learn about and discuss the issues and implications of CSPA possibly becoming an incorporated body.

Judith Roe and John Houghton represented us. We were reassured that the CSPA Constitution would remain intact and that the protective umbrella would cover Branches, Groups and Individuals undertaking action on behalf of CSPA.

Our views on this issue remain crystal clear. It's right that we should do all we can to fully indemnify people acting in their capacity on behalf of CSPA. However, this must never result in any loss of the fully democratic control and structures currently in operation within our organisation.

As a result, the Committee agreed to recommend that we submit a motion to the National AGM to seek commitment to this objective. See motion 2, below:

National AGM 2026

Motions

The Group Committee recommends that we submit the following 3 motions to the National AGM:

1."That this AGM congratulates the National Executive Committee for its effective focus on the Civil Service Pensions Administration 'debacle', in response to motion 16, carried at the 2024 AGM.

This AGM further believes that in the longer term bringing Civil Service Pensions Administration back 'in house' is the most effective way of protecting Civil Service Pensioners, and ensuring timeous delivery of the pensions we have earned. It instructs the NEC to campaign for this objective."

2. "That this AGM congratulates the Executive Committee on its efforts to ensure good, informed consultation with members and resolves to pursue incorporation as being in the best interests of the Alliance. However, nothing in the relevant legal documents and arrangements shall change the Alliance's current democratic arrangements and culture, other than that which is strictly necessary for such incorporation in law."

3. "That this AGM resolves that Groups shall receive some funding from the national body. The Executive Committee is therefore instructed to consider and consult Groups and then bring forward proposals to the 2027 AGM."

Members are invited to consider these motions at the next Members' Meeting.

Nominations

The GEC recommends that we submit the following nominations for National and Regional Posts to the Standing Orders Committee (SOC):

Officers

Chair
Vice-Chair

Regional Representative

North East Region

NEC Members

1
2
3
4

Nominee

Les Priestley*
Roisin Lilley



Nominee

Andy Aitchison*



Nominees

Mike Buckley*
Charles Cochrane
Richard West
Linda Ridgers-Waite – Post Reserved for a Woman



Standing Orders Committee

1
2
3

Nominees

Mr K Yallop
Mrs E Turner
Mr R Lewis

(* Sheffield, Lincoln & Districts Group Member)

Should a ballot be needed for any of the above NEC Officer or NEC Member Posts, We urge you to vote for all our nominees, because their continued contributions will ensure we have the best possible team to promote and protect our interests. Please contact the Group Secretary if you need any further information. So, if you get the chance to have your say.

Please support our nominees

Secretary's note: Just a reminder that I need to constrain any information we give you in this hard-copy edition within 4 pages. However, our email edition enables us to provide more information in a colourful and easier to read format, which also saves CSPA a considerable amount of money!! Please do register for the email edition if you can, and get the full picture sooner.
