

Sheffield, Lincoln & Districts Group Newsletter – Autumn 2026

Group Autumn Meeting – 24th September 2026 – *From 2 p.m. in the Hilton Room, Sheffield Cathedral (behind the Cathedral Tram Stop).* We gather from 1.30 p.m.

Welcome to our September Newsletter. As ever, due to limited space, we can't include the meeting Agenda, and other reports provided in the full email Newsletter. These will be available at the Meeting, in a 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 17th December, also in the Hilton Room, Sheffield Cathedral - *please make a note in your diary*

A message from our Group Chair – Mike Buckley

As the long hot days of summer give way to wet and stormy days of autumn, welcome to your latest Newsletter from the Sheffield and Lincoln Group.



The big current issue is of course preparing for the Alliance's annual general meeting. This event sets CSPA policy and direction. 'Protecting what we've earned is a great strap line, but how far into the development of social care, or where tax thresholds should be set should we go? Digital Exclusion or accessible public transport? All important issues but where should CSPA's relatively scarce resources be best focussed? All potentially up for debate at the AGM. Our next Group meeting will brief your delegates to the AGM on the stances they should take on your behalf.



As a trial, this year the AGM will not elect your national executive committee members: this is being trialled as one member one vote postal ballot. Hopefully the turnout will grow. Whoever you vote for (and I have a stake in this of course!) please vote.

As you know, our Group now extends to cover Lincolnshire members. We have arranged to go to Lincoln to meet members - please see below – if you are able do come along.

My thanks as ever to your hard-working Group committee who keep this show on the road. Do you fancy getting involved? Let's talk about what that might mean: we would love to hear from you.

Mike

Key Issues

1. **An Important opportunity for Lincoln & District Members to meet Group Committee Members, socially, in Lincoln, on 10th September from 10.30 am.**

Sheffield, Lincoln & Districts Group Committee Members will be travelling to Lincoln Cathedral on Thursday 10th September. They will welcome any Lincoln and District Members able to join them in the Cathedral Café, within the Visitor's Centre, from 10.30 am. Do join us if you can for a social get-together

2. **Executive Council Election Member Ballot :**

Arrangements for the all-member election of Executive Council members will be announced shortly. Of course, we're all entitled to make our decisions about who we vote for. However, your Group has nominated 4 strong candidates who have demonstrated their ability to best represent CSPA and our Group policies. So we urge you to vote for our nominees.

In Particular, we ask you to support Mike Buckley, our Group Chair. to build on the great contribution he's made to guiding CSPA, ensuring we make the right key changes to ensure, and build, CSPA's successful future, and contributing to all aspects of our other work. As our Chair, Mike has a unique ability to provide a valuable link between our Group and the Executive Council.

Charles Cochrane, Linda Ridgers-Waite and Richard West all bring a wealth of knowledge and experience we can't afford to lose.

Please support our nominees.

3. Reports

18th June 2026 Group Members Meeting

AGM

- Members welcomed the news that 27 new members had joined this quarter, and hoped we could continue to attract new members, especially in the light of CSPA's determined response to the CAPITA debacle.
- Members agreed three motions to be submitted for debate at the AGM agenda - all are included the Agenda.
- Members agreed proposed nominations - there will be an all-member ballot. Please see details from Page 1

CSPA Future Status Consultation:

Members received a report back from delegates and endorsed the motion setting out our Group's criteria for any change of status

Group Executive Committee Meeting, 6th August 2026



We warmly welcome 3 new CSPA members to our Group:

Mr Kevin Dayman, Mr Sean Pashby, Mr Michael Shenton

We hope you all enjoy your membership.

- Consideration of Motions to the National AGM

There are around 40 motions for debate on the AGM Agenda. The Committee focussed on those that are most important and contentious. These will be highlighted in the Secretarial Report for the meeting.

- National Elections

The only posts requiring an election are 5 Executive Council Elected Members. It's very important that we do all we can to promote and support our nominees. Please see details below.

- Communicating with Lincoln & District Members

The Committee agreed to arrange a social gathering in Lincoln, where we hope to attract Lincoln and District members to meet us there. Details are provided on Page 2

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.**
