

Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association North London Group Yearbook 2024/25

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for the year ending 31 August 2024

Welcome to the 2024/25 Yearbook of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association North London Group.

This report is the Group's thirty-second publication and covers the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

Following a hiatus during COVID, we returned to our tried and tested formula of evening meetings and an annual event from the start of 2024. We held one meeting at Zedra's St. Albans office in September 2023 and then three very well-attended meetings in the first half of 2024 at the County Club (29 Ridgmont Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3AG). The June 2024 annual event, held at Sopwell House, was well received. My thanks go to all the speakers who presented to the Group over the year.

In the coming 2024/25 year, we will hold six evening meetings as well as the annual event. The Committee have been working hard behind the scenes and this year we have another excellent array of speakers.

I will continue to advertise the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association and all associated Local Group webinars as and when they are known, so that Members have opportunities to meet their CPD requirements and to keep our name out there.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who serve on the Committee and give their time so freely to enable the continued operation of our Group.

I would also like to thank Hillier Hopkins for reviewing our accounts this year, and once again, free of charge.

Paul Latimer

Chairman – Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association North London Group

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members served on the Committee during the year ending 31 August 2024:

Paul Latimer *Chairman and Membership Secretary*
Barnett Waddingham LLP Tel: 01494 788134 Email: p[er]sanlg@barnett-waddingham.co.uk

Joanna Godfrey *Secretary*
Lane Clark & Peacock LLP Tel: 0203 824 7260 Email: joanna.godfrey@lcp.uk.com

Matthew Preston *Treasurer*
Clifford Chance LLP Tel: 0207 006 2894 Email: matthew.preston@cliffordchance.com

Michaela Berry *Local Group Liaison Representative and Publicity Secretary*
Sacker and Partners LLP Tel: 0207 239 6699 Email: michaela.berry@sackers.com

Howard Bluston
Independent Investment Advisor Tel: 07802 399850 Email: Howard_bluston@hotmail.com

Afshan Mallik
Taylor Wessing LLP Tel: 0207 300 4989 Email: A.Mallik@taylorwessing.com

ABOUT THE NORTH LONDON GROUP

Our aim at the North London Group of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association is to provide anyone involved in the pensions industry with a forum to discuss and debate topical pension issues, to learn about new ideas or initiatives and to network with other members.

We are managed by a committee of volunteers and usually hold six business meetings during the year along with an Annual Event.

We have arranged the AGM and first Evening Meeting of the year (being held on 10 September 2024) at the County Club St. Albans and have arranged five further 'in person' events for 2024/25 as well as the Annual Event.

We have decided to continue the suspension of the membership fees for the 2024/25 programme year. The Committee will review membership fees on an annual basis and will advise you of any changes in due course.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PENSIONS AND LIFETIME SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

The Local Group Liaison Committee (LGLC) is the key communication forum between the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association local groups and Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association Head Office in London. Meetings take place regularly throughout the year.

Committee members from all the Local Groups are represented at the meetings or the LGLC and during 2024/25 Paul Latimer represented the North London Group. The LGLC focuses primarily on new legislation and future pension developments.

You can visit us at the Local Groups area of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association website. Further details can be found on the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association website at www.plsa.co.uk.

The Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association is always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions on ways that it may better represent members' interests. These can be channelled through the North London Group Committee or directly to the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association by contacting:

Switchboard: 020 7601 1700

Web address: <https://www.plsa.co.uk/About-us/Contact-us>

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR 2024/25

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 10 September 2024 at 5:00pm at the County Club St. Albans. This will be followed by an update from the PLSA on latest developments.

The schedule of speaker meetings for the business year is as follows:

10 September 2024	AGM Topic: PLSA latest developments Speaker: Justin Wray and James Walsh (PLSA)
22 October 2024	Topic: Investment Speaker: To be confirmed
26 November 2024	Topic: Practicalities of Pensions Dashboards Speaker: From PASA Dashboards Working Group
14 January 2025	Topic: Surplus Powers Speaker: Phil Clark (ZEDRA)
25 February 2025	Topic: DC Speakers: Mark Fitcher (Barnett Waddingham) and Lucy Blanchard-Burton (Scottish Widows Workplace, Pensions & Stockbroking & Distribution area)
29 April 2025	Topic: Update on legal issues affecting pension schemes Speaker: Sonya Fraser and Ben Fairhead (Arc Pensions Law)
June 2025	Annual Event

If you know of any speakers you would like to hear from at one of the meetings or would like a topic covered, please contact any of the Committee members.

HOW TO GET CPD FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE

We recognise that Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is an important way for pension professionals to continue broadening their knowledge and skills in the ever-changing world of pensions. We therefore keep a record of all the attendees at each of our face-to-face business meetings. You will be able to obtain CPD for attending these meetings. Please ensure you sign the CPD form made available at each meeting. We are registered with the Pensions Management Institute for the purpose of CPD and, if you are a Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and require evidence of attendance, please contact the Membership Secretary who keeps an electronic copy of all the attendees over the past year.

For webinars please follow the guidance provided by the local organising group for each event.

FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL EVENT

This year's Annual Event at Sopwell House was well attended. We had a varied programme throughout the day which included the latest developments in the pensions landscape. We had sessions on Clara Pensions, PPF+, Womenomics, Trustee Board Diversity and Inclusion, Cyber Security and Pensions Dashboards.

The feedback from attendees was and overwhelmingly positive and we received some suggestions for future sessions but would always welcome more suggestions as we build up to the 2025 Annual Event.

CONSTITUTION

The full Constitution (rules by which the Group operates) is available for members through the Group Secretary. A summary is as follows:

- The Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association North London Group (the “Group”) is a local group of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association.
- The Group’s objectives are to support and promote the objectives of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association.
- Membership of the Group is open both to members and non-members of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association, particularly in North London, North West London, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire and those for whom Group meetings are convenient by virtue of their place of business.
- Membership is normally in the name of organisations, but individuals who do not belong to organisations can also be admitted to membership. Attendance at meetings of the Group is open to any representatives of a member. Membership subscription is determined annually and may be suspended by the Committee.
- Voting at General Meetings and the Annual General Meeting is by show of hands, unless a secret ballot is demanded by 50% or more of the members present. Each member (company or individual) present is entitled to one vote (cast by a representative).
- The Group is administered by an elected Committee consisting of not less than four and not more than eight persons, who are each elected for a two-year term.
- Three members of the Committee constitute a quorum.
- Approximately half of the Committee retires by rotation at each AGM, being those who have served the longest time on the Committee since their last appointment. The Committee can appoint (and replace) casual vacancies.
- The officers consist of a Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and individuals serving such other roles as the Committee considers necessary and are appointed from among their number by the Committee annually.
- Members will receive the Chairman’s report for the previous year before the AGM.
- The constitution may be amended by simple resolution at a General Meeting provided that not less than 14 days’ notice of the proposed change has been given to all members.
- The financial year ends on 31 July and accounts must be prepared and approved by the Honorary Accountants within three months of the financial year-end.