

**Minutes**

**Northwest Regional Police Pension Board**

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday 1 June 2023

**Time of Meeting:** 1300hrs

**Venue:** Microsoft Teams

**Chair:** Fiona Daley

**Board Members:** Ian Cosh (Vice chair, Greater Manchester Police)

Ian Rennie (NARPO)

Steve Freeman (representing PCCs)

Judith West (Cheshire)

Ann Dobinson (Cumbria)

Sarah Irvine (Merseyside)

Gillian Routledge (Lancashire)

Dan Lever (Police Federation)

Rachel Hanley (Police Federation)

Subject matter experts: Michael Nulty (Cheshire)

Julie Wigg (Lancashire)

Faye Sagar (Lancashire)

Cheryl Chadwick / John Twiss (GMP)

Kevin Courtney (NPCC / LGA Advisor)

Attendees: Emma Hebblethwaite (LPPA)

Paul Mudd (XPS)

Tara Jones (GMP Secretary)

Apologies: Tony Wilkinson (Lancashire)

Diane Lister (Lancashire)

Rachel Rosewell (PCCs)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair opened the meeting welcoming everyone and noting apologies.

1. Minutes & Actions

Minutes from previous meeting were accepted as a true record

1. Current Police Pension Issues – Kevin Courtney – NPCC Pension Advisor

Kevin Courtney gave a helpful update of current topics/issues. The dominating topics currently are the Remedy, and the response to the Home Office on their revised scheme.

The aspects explored in discussion with Kevin were:

* Refunded Payment or Additional Contributions – are the responsibility of the scheme manager
* Issues of equality / fairness of approach amongst Forces – need consistency to avoid unfairness
* Technical points – putting the responsibility on individual Scheme Managers is not the best way to go around this. The role of the Scheme Advisory Board was also considered.
* Further tax consultation being launched – for Remedy there will be in scope years/Common Period. Officers will need information to complete their tax returns for 2022/23. Normal information will not be readily available. HMRC have provided comment on this.
* Data Conference held by LGA including Fire, about 120 attended– reminding people about the importance of data quality and the power of good data to inform scheme managers.
* Only a third of XPS customers have provided data to transact numbers for remedy.
* Issues for Scheme Managers and NWPPB to monitor:
  + Governance
  + Data Quality
  + Approach to Ill Health Assessments
  + Contingent Decisions
  + Opt-out Rates
  + BAU from October 2023 onwards – what the arrangements will be.

1. Issues from member representatives

Nothing raised

1. Pension Administrator Update – Paul Mudd XPS

* KPIs show dips that XPS are aware of
* Officers are asking what does the remedy mean to them?
* XPS are training the team as much as they can. Currently building calculators, models to provide a dual option for scheme members should the software not be ready for October 2023.
* Recruiting at all levels – working with NPCC
* Paul has offered to bring a XPS McCloud lead to the next board.

LPPA – Emma Hebblethwaite

2022/23 LPPA went through a transformation project for their software provider – this came with challenges, and performance was affected by this transition.

April / May 2023 shows recovery back of the SLAs back to 95%.

* Training has been a big focus as the team grows.
* Recruiting due to the volume of work – bringing staff on board early to all the in-depth training needed for October
* Moving forward – ensuring all staff are upskilled in preparation for October 2023. Dedicated project for the Remedy has been set up – building in a contingency incase the systems are not ready by October 2023.
* McCloud as a project is on track.
* The key is the data exercise and getting it right and of good quality.

1. Force Quarterly Updates – Data completeness

Data Completeness is still a high priority risk

All Forces identify it is a challenge but are happy that they are able to mitigate the risks.

1. Annual Report

Board members are happy with report.

1. Elect Deputy Chair

All Board members happy for Ian Cosh to continue at Vice Chair

1. Review risk management

Stable at this stage – nothing to raise as a concern, the board will continue with their approach and bring back to December’s meeting.

Paull Mudd from XPS offered to share anonymized Risk Registers for us to compare.

1. AOB

No matters were raised.

**Date of next meeting:**

6 September 2023