

MARCH 2026



Message from Fred

Welcome to March's SPP News.

We were all delighted that SPP won *Pensions Association/Organisation of the Year* at this month's Pensions Age awards. It is a testament to all the time and expertise that our members bring to SPP's activities - from our events programme, our committees and thought leadership, to our media work and early career professionals' programme. As ever, our thanks for your continued support and have a great month ahead.



SPP Event Recordings

[View All Event Recordings](#)



THE SOCIETY OF PENSION PROFESSIONALS
SPP Event: Cyber Risk for Pension Schemes
Wednesday 18 March, 09.00-10.15

 Helen Borge Pensions Risk and Resilience Consultant Barnwell Waddingham LLP	 Rosannah Whitaker Senior Associate CML	 Chris Curry Industry Principles, Pensions Dashboards Programme Money and Pensions Service	 Emma Fitzaway (Chair) Professional Trustee Low Debenham
--	--	--	---

Cyber Risk for Pension Schemes

[View Recording](#)



THE SOCIETY OF PENSION PROFESSIONALS
SPP Pensions Update for Early Career Professionals
Wednesday 18 March, 16.30-19.00
Burgess Salmon LLP, 6 New St Square, London, EC4A 3BF and Online

 Jonathan Hazlett Managing Director Cohen Trustees	 Rebecca Howard Senior Practitioner Development Lawyer Preston Masons LLP	 Matthew Zimmerman Market Development Nephogee Scottish Widows	 Keith McNally Director Wills Towers Watson	 Bessie Hamilton (Chair) Governance Director XPS Group
---	---	--	--	---

Pensions Update for Early Career Professionals

[View Recording](#)

SPP Event: Retirement CDC - What Lies Ahead?
Tuesday 24 March, 09.00-10.15

Iain McLellan
Director
Ito

Johanna Clarke
Partner
CMS

Stewart Pofferson
Senior Director, UDesign
WTW

Mark Humphreys (Chair)
Trustee Director
Low Debenure

Retirement CDC - What Lies Ahead?

[View Recording](#)

Upcoming SPP Events

[View All Events](#)

SPP Event: Dashboards - Developments in Testing and a Regulatory Update
Thursday 16 April, 09.00-10.15

Chris Curry
Industry Principal, Pensions Dashboard Programme
Money and Pensions Service

Lucy Stone
Pensions Dashboards Lead
The Pensions Regulator

Lynda Whithey (Chair)
Senior Partner
Aon

Dashboards - Developments in Testing and a Regulatory Update

Online
16 April 2026

This session, with speakers from Pensions Dashboard Programme and The Pensions Regulator, will explore:

- The latest developments in the dashboard's progress and an update on MaPS testing.
- TPR's perspective on regulatory developments, how connection is going, on data quality and their approach to compliance obligation.
- What the industry should focus on at this point in the journey to launch.

[Register](#)

SPP Event: Lessons from Own Risk Assessments
Wednesday 29 April, 09.00-10.15

Helen Nguyen
Senior Pensions Executive
Low Debenure

Lucy Craswell
Partner
Barnett Woodingham LLP

Jade Rigby
Senior Associate
Hogan Lovells

Jake Churchill (Chair)
Associate Director
Independent Governance Group

Lessons from Own Risk Assessments

Online
29 April 2026

Following the completion of the first batch of 'Own Risk Assessments' (ORAs), this session will explore the practical challenges and lessons learned in complying with this element of the General Code.

[Register](#)

SPP Event: DC Adequacy - Looking Beyond Pensions
Wednesday 06 May, 09.00-10.15

Kelly McVillie-Kelly
Deputy CEO & Director of Risk, Policy and Compliance
Equity Release Council

Helen Forrest Hall
Chief Strategy Officer
Pensions Management Institute

Will Sandbrook
Managing Director
Nest Insight

Colum Cooper (Chair)
Partner and Head of Pensions Policy Innovation
Howard Robinson

DC Adequacy - Looking Beyond Pensions

Online
06 May 2026

The second event in our adequacy series will look at lifetime savings beyond pensions, asking how we can improve wider savings and address some of the other financial challenges we face, whilst supporting better retirement outcomes. The event will consider both the accumulation and decumulation phases and we will hear from:

- The Nest Insights team, on research into side car savings and accessing pensions savings to help buy a home
- The PMI on their Lifetime Savings Initiative
- The Equity Release Council, on what equity release might involve and how it could help.

[Register](#)

Enabling Good Retirement Decision-Making
Online
Wednesday 27 May, 09.00-10.15

Register

Enabling Good Retirement Decision-Making

Online
27 May 2026

With default pension benefit solutions being introduced for Mastertrusts from 2027 and all DC schemes from 2028, the onus is going to be on schemes to engage with Members, to avoid them defaulting into solutions that may not be right for them. So, how can the industry encourage members to engage more with their options at retirement, and really understand them? What is it that members are looking for? How will the member journey evolve with targeted support and new technologies? And should trustees be worried about members turning to AI for support? These are some of the questions we will explore with an expert panel at this online event.

Bristol Pensions Update
Burgess Salmon LLP, One Glass Wharf, Bristol, BS2
Thursday 28 May, 16.30-19.00

Register

Bristol Pensions Update

Burgess Salmon LLP, One Glass Wharf, Bristol, BS2
28 May 2026

You are invited to join us in Bristol for a high level review of the latest developments in pensions. This session is designed to support pension professionals in staying informed on key current issues across DB, DC and with a legal update. The session will be followed by an opportunity to network with peers over drinks and refreshments.

Latest Developments in DB Liability Settlement
Online
Wednesday 24 June, 09.15-10.30

Register

Latest Developments in DB Liability Settlement

Online
24 June 2026

This session will explore the latest innovations in DB liability settlement, hearing directly from the Just Group on their GMP Equalisation/data cleansing solutions and Aberdeen Investments on the recent Stagecoach deal.

Early Career Professionals Update

Upcoming Events

The first Early Career Professionals event of 2026 was held this month, with the recording of the presentation and Q&A session [available to view through the SPP website](#). Our expert panel provided updates on the latest developments in key areas of pensions, including an overview of DB superfunds, the impact of the state pension on occupational schemes, potential solutions to the DC adequacy challenge and the evolution of CDC in the UK.

Bookings for our next Early Career Professionals event, taking place in a hybrid format on June 4th, will be opened shortly.

Networking Initiative

April will see the launch of the next networking initiative, which will comprise Early Career Professionals being connected with peers from across the industry based on regional proximity, as well opportunities to network in-person, including a Quiz Night in Central London in June. More details will follow in due course.

Virtual Roundtable

There are still some places available for the DC-focused discussion at our next Early Career Professionals virtual roundtable, taking place on May 20th. This informal event will bring together a limited number of participants to explore various aspects of the Pension Schemes Bill, including the impact of policy changes on the industry and your role as advisors.

You can secure your place at the session [through the SPP website](#). If you have any questions about this session or any upcoming Early Career Professionals initiative, please contact [Tom](#).

Networking Initiative

The past month has seen further additions to our library of short recordings, with introductions to AI in pensions and pension scheme investment being [published on the SPP website](#).

Committee News

[View All Committee Minutes](#)

1. The **Public Sector Committee** discussed the forthcoming SPP Paper on the impact of climate change on pensions; had a presentation on Dashboards from Richard Smith & Maurice Titley; reviewed our response to the consultation on the Police Pension Scheme & CPI; and the SAB response to the closed consultation on draft Investment, pooling and governance guidance.

2. The **Financial Services Regulation Committee** considered the upcoming publication of statutory guidance on fiduciary duty and the FCA paper on regulatory priorities.

Parliamentary & Stakeholder Engagement

Shadow Pensions Minister, Mark Garnier MP addressed Council and engaged in a useful Q&A session.

We directly engaged with half a dozen MPs and Peers on issues including trusteeship, Value for Money and mandation; and sent all 650 MPs a copy of our response to the DWP consultation on trust based schemes and our response to the FCA on Value for Money. We also sent all MPs and Peers our views on mandation and the Pensions Minister's announcement that the purpose of the reserve is to backstop the Mansion House Accord goals.

SPP met with DWP officials to discuss the Pension Schemes Bill and the Administration aspects of the trust based schemes consultation.

We also engaged with the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) in relation to their £14bn+ reserves.

SPP in the News

The SPP secured over 40 pieces of media coverage this month.

Our event on Retirement CDC was reported in [Corporate Adviser](#), [Professional Pensions](#) and [Pensions Age](#).

Publication of the SPP's latest recorded resources on AI and pensions adequacy was highlighted in [Pensions Age](#).

The SPP & PMI's joint statement on mandation secured coverage in [Pensions Expert](#), [Investment & Pensions Europe](#) and [Law360](#).

Our regular article slots included an LGPS piece for [LAPF Investments](#); a climate change article for [mallowstreet](#); a covenant assessment article for [Professionals Pensions](#) and regarding the VfM framework for [Pensions Expert](#).

David James & Harriet Sayer were interviewed on all things DC in [Corporate Adviser](#).

Our People



Anish Rav SPP Council Member

What firm do you work for and in what role?

Capita Pension Solutions – Director of Pensions Policy & Industry Engagement.

If you could make one change to current pensions policy, what would it be?

Coming up with standardised terminology and getting rid of the acronyms that the industry loves – this feels like the perfect time with Dashboards on the horizon and the opportunity to really engage with savers.

What 3 things can you not live without?

Aside from family and friends – my daily walk, my airpods, and a good book

What are you passionate about outside of work?

My real passion is travelling. There is so much you can learn by travelling, embracing different cultures/customs and trying all the different food is amazing!

The Society of Pension Professionals



This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}

You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[View in browser](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

