# **Southern & South East**

**Chair: Nigel Fairburn (Kent County Council)** 

**Vice Chair: Seanne Giddy (Tandridge District Council)** 

**Secretary: Deborah Moon (Consultant)** 

#### **Event**

We held a successful event on 13 January 2012 that was well attended. It was a packed agenda with the theme of the meeting being employee engagement. DLA Piper hosted the event with whom the region continues to have a strong relationship. It was great to welcome Martin Rayson, PPMA Vice President who visited the region.

## **Employee Engagement**

Lisa Sibley, Employee Engagement Manager at Essex County Council shared the County's approach to employee engagement. This was a stimulating and thought provoking presentation that resonated with members and the issues we are facing within our organisations. Lisa was a speaker on employee engagement at the CIPD annual conference last year.

#### **Employee Value Proposition (EVP)**

Martin Rayson presented on the EVP that is being sponsored by the PPMA in conjunction with the LGA & London Councils. Martin outlined the purpose of the research which in essence looks at the changing nature of the employment deal between employers and employees. Martin also shared the findings from the research that has been undertaken at LB of Barking & Dagenham. The research identifies key features that support employee engagement and will inform organisations on how they can further engage employees, particularly in the context of transformational change across the public sector.

In addition DLA Piper provided valuable contributions to the meeting. Jonathan Hearn, Employment Lawyer, delivered a session on the Agency Workers Regulations. Bill Taylor from DLA Piper presented key findings from their HR Benchmarker research which includes comparative data on absence levels and HR/employee ratios.

### **Regional Officers**

The regional officers were elected for the coming year. Nigel Fairburn, Seanne Giddy and Deborah Moon were reelected in their roles as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary respectively. Ann Cobban has stepped down from her role as Vice Chair as she is leaving Buckinghamshire County Council and returning to Northern Ireland. I would like to record my thanks to Ann for the contribution she has made to the PPMA and the region over the years. Given the two regions are now well embedded we will have a one Vice Chair going forward.

## **Future Events**

Our next quarterly meeting will be on 18 May 2012 (slightly later than anticipated so that it is not too close to the annual seminar). This meeting will be a joint event with the London region. Tracey Connage. Chair of the London Region, and I have decided to have two joint meetings a year. Members from both regions have been invited to the Southern & South East and London regional meetings for some time and this builds on this collaboration.