

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of
Public Finance & Accountancy

North West, Audit, Risk and Governance
Professional Development Group

Annual Development and Training Event 2024

1– 3 March 2024

Old England Hotel and Spa
Bowness-on-Windermere

www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk

Featuring expert speakers and an interactive training workshop, this annual CPD event will improve the knowledge and skills that help audit, risk, governance and finance professionals to work smarter.



Participate in this event to enhance your Professional Development in 2024

Aims and objectives

This is an exceptional value for money CPD event that will provide you with a range of views, practical advice, tips and guidance to improve your own working practices and to raise the value and reputation of your services in the face of continuing challenges to what you do and how you do it.

Who should attend?

Anyone who has an interest in public sector auditing, risk management and governance arrangements, including;

- Internal Auditors
- Governance Officers
- Risk Managers
- Fraud Investigators
- Accountants
- Students

Whatever your current position or level of experience, there will be something here for you. Join fellow professionals and expert practitioners in exploring how to address some of the key issues and emerging challenges.

Friday 1 March 2024

17.00	Welcome and Introduction
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17.15	Edd Berry: Director of Finance Innovation at Manchester University NHS FT (MFT)
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Robotic Process Automation (RPL) and Artificial Intelligence (AL) tools
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In his current role, Edd is heavily involved in the adoption of new technologies and innovations within the finance function. He has led the implementation of a number of technology solutions and was responsible for introducing robotic process automation into the trust, beginning with Finance and Procurement. Joining MFT in 2019, Edd was responsible for managing the move to financial reporting on and supporting the direct operational and cultural changes this had on over 370 staff working in Finance and Procurement. He has worked in the NHS for over 20 years and during the pandemic was Director of Finance for the North West Nightingale Hospital.

Edd will cover what Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Artificial intelligence (AI) means to MFT, why they decided to use it and will take the audience through their journey to date. He will focus on how we as auditors can take assurances from these tools but also how BOT's can make mistakes that differ from those made by humans and what controls can be used to identify these.

18.15

Diana Melville and Joanne Pitt: Governance and Policy Advisors, CIPFA

Section 114 Notice - What they mean for Local Authorities and how can they be prevented?

Diana is a lead advisor for the CIPFA Better Governance Forum and is a CIPFA representative on the Internal Audit Standards Advisory Board. In a wide-ranging role, she delivers policy and guidance on the areas of internal audit, governance and audit committees. She liaises with government departments and other stakeholders and delivers support through training, publications and briefings. She is the co-author of Internal Audit: Untapped Potential (2022) and authored the 2022 edition of Audit Committees, Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police. Diana was part of the CIPFA working group that developed the Good Governance Framework for Local Government (2016) and co-developed the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (2014).

Joanne is an experienced local government adviser and has 25 years of public sector experience. She was responsible for the delivery of the CIPFA Financial Management Code and is an advocate of strong financial management and good governance. She is a national speaker and author of numerous publications on topics such as government funding, housing and financial sustainability. Through her work with CFOs across the country she supports local government improvement and reform using data analysis and strong evidence-based insight.

Reports of S114 notices being issued at local authorities are becoming increasingly common; but what are they and what should councils be doing to prevent them? and what happens after one has been issued? Diana and Joanne will talk to the audience on how the crucial roles of the S151 and Internal Audit can work together to provide those vital assurances to board and management and possibly prevent the issue of a S114 notice in the first instance.

19.15

Dinner - Dress code: casual

Saturday 2 March 2024

09.30

Lee Rossall: Procurement Officer, Wyre Council

The New Procurement Act

Lee is a CIPS qualified procurement professional who works as Procurement Officer for Wyre Council. Lee's background is in logistics, commercial and procurement management roles in both the private and public sector. His career has taken him to Germany, Holland, Ireland and supporting operations in the United Arab Emirates and South Africa. Lee's specialisation is in logistics and fleet, he is a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and a qualified transport manager.

In this session, Lee will share his insights on some of the key changes that the new Procurement Act will bring and how this will impact the ways that procurement and commercial teams across the public sector will work in future, and what this means for audit teams.

10.30**Karen Openshaw: Karen Openshaw Consultancy****Mindfulness for wellbeing and success**

Prior to setting up her consultancy in 2016, Karen worked across the faith and charity sectors. She is passionate about encouraging, enabling and equipping people to live their best life. She offers a “Listening service” for both organisations and individuals; utilising her multi-disciplinary training in counselling, chaplaincy, mentoring, coaching and leadership training. She also leads workshops and retreats introducing people to the concept of mindfulness. In 2022 she co-authored two publications “Mindfulness as Mission Gift” and “Mindful Devotions”. She is also a regular contributor to local radio offering reflections. After many years supporting others with their mental health and wellbeing she now models ‘self care’ following a diagnosis of fibromyalgia in 2017. She manages her condition through mindfulness, meditation, walking, prayer and reflection.

Her presentation will outline the importance of the practice of mindfulness for success and well-being both in the workplace and in order to live out our lives to their full potential. She will offer strategies to be calm even when things feel chaotic.

11.30**Break - Tea and Coffee****11.45****Peter Armitage: District and Town Councillor****‘Getting to the point’ - how to be an effective report writer**

Peter is a District and Town Councillor and a retired chartered Civil Engineer (MICE) who specialised in public transport planning and engineering, with a master’s degree in Transport Planning and Engineering. He also has a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics and Physics. He has extensive all-round experience in senior roles including Programme and Project Management of major transport projects and building and leading successful teams taking projects from concept through to implementation.

Peter has written, edited and presented reports to many clients, including private, local and national government, as well as international funding bodies. Latterly, as a Councillor, he has also received many reports. In this session, Peter will pass on his insights from both perspectives and give the audience helpful hints and tips on how to ‘get to the point’ and be an effective report writer.

12.45**Lunch****13.30****Group Activity / Opportunity for networking**

Either participate in the arranged group activity or take the opportunity to take some well-deserved down time! Delegates have free use of the hotel’s fantastic spa facilities – no pre-reservations needed.

19.00**Gala Dinner - Including raffle sponsored by John Barker, JSB Consultancy**

19.00 Meet for pre-dinner drinks

19.30 Gala Dinner

Dress Code: Formal / Black Tie / Suit

Sunday 3 March 2024

10.00	Mark Byron: Head of ICT and Digital Delivery, St Helens Council
Cyber-attack – it is a matter of when...not if!	
<p>Mark is a long-term employee within the IT service at St Helens Council and for the last three years he has been heading up the ICT and Digital Delivery service. Mark has a solid background in the IT space, predominantly from a networking, virtualisation, and datacentre background. With a wealth of experience in delivering technological change during his time at St Helens, Mark has seen the benefits that digital transformation can provide in modernising council services but has also experienced first-hand the challenges of keeping pace with the ever-increasing and very real cyber threats that can significantly disrupt those digital services.</p> <p>Mark will share his story of leading the response to the cyber-attack, which impacted St Helens Council during the summer of 2023, and how the organisation collectively dealt with the response and achieved recovery within a 12-week period. Mark is keen to share the real insights of the incident (both good and bad) for others to take away and consider within their own workplace.</p>	

11.00	Break – chance to check out
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11.30	David Smith: Deputy Head of Internal Audit, Salford and Warrington Councils, Sarah Dowbekin: Head of R&D, Quality and Professional Standards at Mersey Internal Audit Agency and Kevin Lloyd: Head of Internal Audit Operations, HMRC
Auditing Financial Systems	
<p>Kevin has worked in Internal Audit for over 20 years across the public sector, working with Local Authorities, Policing, Fire and Rescue Service and the NHS. He has worked in a variety of different delivery models from an in-house team and within a semi-commercial environment. Kevin moved to the civil service in July 2022 and joined the HMRC Internal Audit Unit, as head of Audit Operations. For the last five years has been a member of the CIPFA Northwest Risk Audit and Governance Group. Sarah has significant experience of leading and delivering internal audit and assurance services across the public sector including NHS, central government and local government. In her current role, she leads MIAA's R&D programme and is responsible for ensuring MIAA systems and processes comply with PSIAS. David has worked with Salford Council for the last 7 years and is currently the deputy Head of Internal Audit across both Salford and Warrington Councils. He also worked, prior to this on the internal Audit team at Grater Manchester Police. He has been member of the North West Audit Risk and Governance Group for the last 3 years and will move over to the Chairman role later this year.</p>	

The presentation will provide an insight into the approach from three public sector organisations on their approach to financial systems testing. It will cover financial systems assurance framework, to ensure coverage without duplication. It will look at the internal audit approach in each of the organisations and the risks involved, including new ways of working.

12.30 Closing remarks followed by lunch

Prices and bookings

Delegate Fees	
Per delegate	£200 + VAT per delegate

Refunds cannot be guaranteed if bookings are cancelled.
The organisers reserve the right to amend the programme without prior notification.

Delegate places are limited and we cannot guarantee that all bookings will be accepted. Applications will be dealt with in the order they are received – early booking is advised.

Bookings or enquiries should be directed to: joanne.billington@wyre.gov.uk Tel: 01253 887372