

HELLO!

Welcome to the monthly Pensions Team Newsletter

The winner of the Christmas Decorations competition is Adele Seex, who's Xmas Bar made us all laugh! We know where Santa has been if the presents don't get delivered!



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Celebrating your Success

One Pensions Team Champion



WINNER
Chyna Howard

Huge congratulations to Chyna Howard who won the One Pensions Team Champion award!

This award was aimed at celebrating those who have truly embraced and demonstrated what it means to work with a One Pensions Team mindset.

The below team members were shortlisted for this award:



One Pensions Team Champion

Shortlisted nominees



Adele Seex
Amanda Jupp
Bernadette Cawley
Bethany Goss
Chyna Howard
Ellie Calvert

Leigh Bouteloupt
Matthew Trembley
Mel Butler
Prerna Collins
Sara Undre



Celebrating your Success

LAPF Awards



A huge congratulations to the team for being shortlisted for two LAPF Investment Awards; 'Best Approach to Responsible Investment' and the 'Good Governance Award'. The team didn't win on the night, but being nominated is a recognition of excellence in the field of pensions provision in the LGPS. Well done!

Tom's New Role

In the Whole of Pensions Meeting, it was announced that Tom Lewis will be taking over from Colette as Head of Service Delivery. The transition will be in a phased approach in the new year. Congratulations in your new role Tom!



Congratulations Kaja!

Dean Brackstone

Congratulations to Kaja Zablocka on successfully completing the KPA Level 3 Certificate in Pensions Administration course.

Kaja has worked hard during this course to learn various aspects of pensions administration and complete related assignments/exams on her way to earning this qualification.

Well done on a great achievement Kaja!

Team Spotlight

Spotlight on the Pensions Finance Team

Su



Chris



Keevah



As well as building toys in Santa's Workshop,
we also do ...

- Payment of SPF Supplier Invoices
- Process Employer / Employee Contributions
- Raise SPF Recharge Invoices to Employers
- HMRC Payments
- Manage the SPF Bank Accounts
- Monthly Payroll Reconciliations
- Reconciling & Recording SPF Investments
- Produce the Annual Report & Financial Statements
- Produce, Monitor and Report on SPF Annual Budget
- Finance Business Partnering for LGPS Members





Fond Farewell—Bernadette ‘Bern’ Cawley

You may have heard that it will be Bern’s last day in the Customer Relationship Team on 24 December.

We have collated some of the recognition that she deserves below. I’m sure you’ll join us in wishing Bern all the best for her future endeavours!

“Bern, A huge thank you for your support and the craic over the last few months. I am very sad that you are leaving us but no doubt the foxes of Kingston will be pleased that they don't have to share you with us anymore!” - Leigh

**“Bernadette, thank you for all the effort that you have put in us, the newbies, the training that you have provided has been amazing and it has made my learning journey more enjoyable and effective.”
– Camilo**

“Bern has been a real rock to our pensions team. An Encyclopaedia of pension knowledge!!”- Jowan

“Bern is an absolute superstar! She is the oracle for pensions as far as I am concerned, and her knowledge is so valuable to us here on the pensions team. I appreciate her taking the time to take us all on the pensions journey, which was a very helpful training session. Thank you again for all your wisdom Bern!” – Virginie

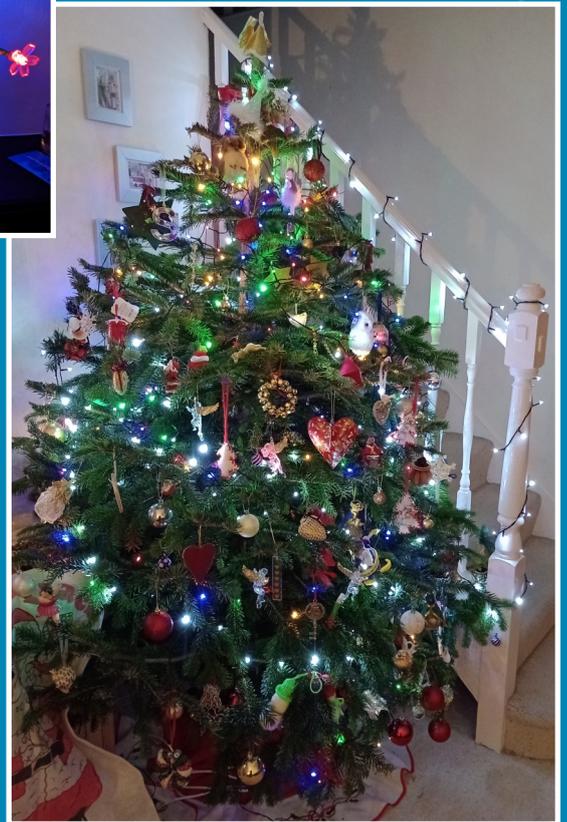
“Fountain of youth and knowledge with a great sense of humour thrown in for good measure, Bern was brilliant at delivering a complex subject into bite sized chunks.” – Rahul

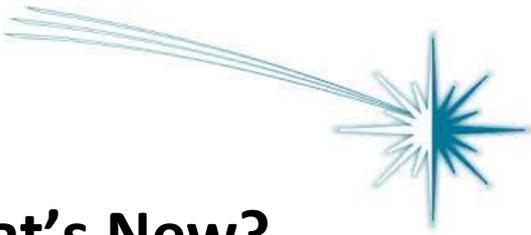
**“Dear Bern,
You amazed me with your immense knowledge of the world of Pensions when I first joined. I would come to you when I had a difficult member and you always managed to turn their frown into a smile. That's the effect you had on the members and on the team. Your positive attitude at the worst of times helped a lot of us and I am very sad to see you go. You will be very sorely missed by your team and I'm sure by everyone who has known you in the Pensions team. I know I will miss you and our chats a lot. I wish you all the very best in whatever you plan to do in the future (hoping it is enjoying retirement) and hope our paths cross soon someday. “ - Love Prerna xx**

“All the best for the future Bern! You'll be missed but I must admit I will not miss the dread of fear I have when I receive a Team’s call from you, as I know it is never good news.” - David

“Bern, I'm so sad that you're leaving us. I can't thank you enough for all of the help (and laughs) you've given me since I joined. You are going to be SO missed here, not only by us, but members too. All the best for the future.” - Ria xx

Share your Christmas Decorations





What's New?

My Surrey

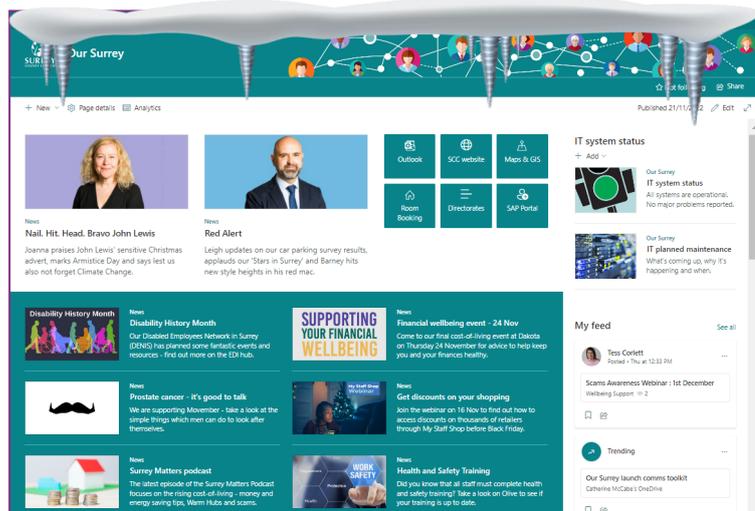
Communication & Education Team



SCC Daily has been replaced with a new homepage where you'll find blogs, news items and the quick links you're used to.

All the content from Jive and SCC Info has been transferred across to SharePoint (including our own 'Surrey Pensions'), so now all your information is in one place. It should be much easier to find what you need, with improved navigation and search function.

There's a new [Intranet Help Page](#) to get you started, where you can watch an introductory video, ask questions and seek training.



Dakota Christmas Hours

Facility Team

Friday 23rd December	Normal opening hours
Monday 26th December	Closed
Tuesday 27th December	Closed
Wednesday 28th December	
Thursday 29th December	Reception closes at 4pm and the building at 6pm
Friday 30th December	
Monday 2nd January	Closed
Tuesday 3rd January	Normal opening hours





What's New?

Whole of Pensions Meeting

Surrey Pension Team



Thank you to everyone who joined us in Woodhatch for our Whole of Pensions Meeting on 8 December. Huge congratulations to Chyna Howard who won the Inaugural Surrey Pension Team award! We've included some photos from the day below, starring some stunning Christmas jumpers.

The day's highlights were:

Anna D'Alessandro joined us to share her background, her interest and hobbies, and the areas that she is responsible for in Surrey County Council.

We had the opportunity to meet other members of the team and find out a little more about them and what they do in the team.

An update was given on training and staff engagement and there was a service spotlight on valuation and accounting.



Bulletin Breakdown!

LGA Bulletin Updates

New LGPS Minister

Lee Rowley MP was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 7 September 2022. It has now been confirmed that he has taken over ministerial responsibility for the LGPS.

Michael Gove MP was re-appointed Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 25 October 2022. He previously held this role between 15 September 2021 and 6 July 2022.

Autumn Statement 2022

The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his Autumn Statement to Parliament on 17 November 2022. Pensions policies rumoured in advance of the statement such as changes to tax relief and the removal or suspension of the State Pension triple lock did not emerge.

The statement confirmed the following policies that have a direct or indirect impact on LGPS members:

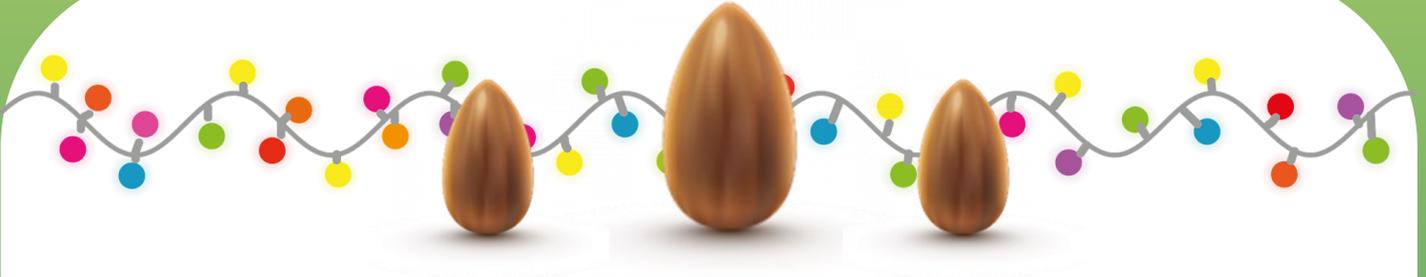
- The State Pension triple lock was maintained and working age benefits will increase in line with inflation in April 2023. Next year's increase will be 10.1%
- The DWP review of the State Pension age will be published early in 2023. The review is currently underway to consider whether the existing timetable to increase the State Pension age remains appropriate. The Government must publish the review by 7 May 2023.
- No changes to the annual allowance, tapered annual allowance or Money Purchase Annual Allowance in 2023/24.
- No changes to the Lifetime Allowance which will remain at its current level of £1,073,100 until the end of the 2025/26 year.
- Current personal tax thresholds for income tax and national insurance (in England and Wales) will be frozen until April 2028. Increases to wages, benefits and pensions at a time of high inflation will mean that more of the lowest earners will start to pay tax and more people will be drawn into the 40 percent tax band.
- The additional rate threshold (in England and Wales) will reduce from £150,000 to £125,140 from April 2023. This is the threshold beyond which individuals pay income tax at 45%

You can find the [Autumn Statement 2022 documents](#) on the Government's website.

[You can read the full Bulletin \(231\) here.](#)



Sow the Seed



What would you like to see improved?

Ask yourself:

- ◆ Are there any error messages you keep seeing in Altair?
- ◆ Are you always having to edit a document in the same way?
- ◆ Are you constantly being asked the same questions?
- ◆ Is there a letter that you never use?
- ◆ Is there any information you think might be missing from a piece of documentation?
- ◆ Got any changes (no matter how small) that you would like to see?

Submit your idea highlighting a problem to

sowtheseed@surreycc.gov.uk

to win an hour of Flexi-time and sow a seed for improvement!