

PMPA Annual Members Meeting 2009

PMPA Members and guests joined PMPA staff and Board members for the 2009 Annual Meeting which took place on 7 December 2009 at NCVO's headquarters in King's Cross.

The speaker, Professor Peter Alcock, Director of the Third Sector Research Centre, gave an overview of changes in third sector policy in the UK since 2000, focusing on the extent to which devolution was contributing to a divergence in policy in the four nations, and the role of different bodies (such as the ESRC) which were UK-wide. He analysed the impact of different policy instruments such as the Compact, Futurebuilders and the Charity Commission and how their role and functions differed across the UK. The overall conclusion was that, although many of the forms were different, until now the policy direction had been largely similar. A key factor was that for most of the time since 2000, Labour had been the largest political party in each of the devolved administrations, but with the rise of the SNP in Scotland, and a Westminster General Election now imminent, the coming years could see more rapid change. [[click here for a copy of Professor Alcock's presentation](#)].

Professor Alcock's presentation was followed by the formal part of the Annual Meeting, in which Janet Grauberg, the Development Director, gave a summary of the activities and impact of the PMPA during 2009. Although there had been difficult financial challenges, the PMPA was growing in impact and influence, making effective links with CIPFA regional groups and being asked for input from central government departments, voluntary sector organisations and local government groups alike.

Looking ahead, 2010 promised an exciting programme of lectures and events on the future of local government, the role of the policy maker in an age of change, and on taking good decisions in hard times. [[click here for a copy of Janet Grauberg's presentation](#)].

Janet Grauberg
January 2010

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