

Training Team Annual Report 2025

2025 has been a challenging yet resilient year for the Training Team. Despite facing a changing landscape, the team has worked tirelessly to design and deliver high-quality conferences and training opportunities that meet the diverse needs of our membership.

This year, we have seen a noticeable reduction in delegate attendance at paid-for events, reflecting broader sector challenges, such as fewer new members joining and tighter continuous professional development (CPD) budgets across universities. In response, the team has adapted swiftly, implementing cost-saving measures, introducing new initiatives and reinvesting in our members and volunteers.

- This year we held one New Practitioners' Conference (NPC). We moved the October 2025 contract to May 2026, due to the lower booking numbers at the May 2025 event and had concerns that the October event would be low numbers and therefore a financial loss if we continued.
- To ensure we still offered a conference for members in October, especially those new into roles, the NPC manager developed a Networking and Practitioner Wellbeing conference. This allowed for a different type of conference and feedback from members is positive, with potential to develop this theme further.
- To reflect the challenges in the sector, in 2025 we introduced the option to purchase early bird tickets for the National Conference, allowing a saving of £100 or £50. We also offered the option to prepay for national places using remaining budgets. This has proved popular and where possible we will continue to offer this in 2026.
- In October 2025, for the first time we brought in group discounts for national places and opened up the conference to non-members. We will assess the success of these initiatives after the conference before confirming if these will be used again.
- 2025 saw us host a Professional Development Conference (PDC) outside of England for the first time.

- Work continues with developments following the equality, diversity and inclusivity project, with this year improvements being made to the NPC webpages and comprehensive frequently asked questions (FAQs) being added to the website.
- The May NPC event and the February, May and September PDC events and the October Networking and Practitioner Wellbeing Conference received Continued Professional Development (CPD) accreditation. The November PDC event should also receive this accreditation.
- Since November 2024, three Group meetings have been submitted and received CPD accreditation, with two more planned to be submitted before the end of the year.
- A continued focus for 2026 and beyond will be to have more speakers at all conferences from diverse and varied backgrounds.

A huge thank you to the training team and wider UK Committee for this shared work and support this year and to all our speakers for supporting events.

Special thanks to Rachel Clenton for her short term as PDC Manager, to Georgie Leeves for her first year as a Conference Manager who is currently on maternity leave and to Oliver Speke for his time as NPC Manager. Oliver finishes his term in early 2026 after a fantastic three years in the training team.

Training Events – Membership Engagement and Feedback

National Conference

All booking numbers include members of the UK committee

	2020	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Delegates	251	231*	323	316	248***	201**

	2020	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Feedback (Good or Excellent)	93.2%	99.1%	94.5%	89.1%	83.8%** **	To be confirmed
First time attendees	37.6%	38.2%	64.3%	50.6%	46.8%	45.7%**

*Bookings closed at 266 however we received 35 cancellations due to various Covid-19 circumstances.

**Bookings still open at time of writing.

*** This included 9 free places offered to the most engaged members from the 2023/24 academic year.

**** Rating scale was changed for 2025 evaluation to out of 5 stars. This is the number of 4 and 5 star ratings.

New Practitioners' Conference

	2020 (2 virtual)	2021 (1 virtual and 1 physical)	2022 (2 physical)	2023 (2 physical)	2024 (2 physical)	2025 (1 physical)
Delegates	109	140	178	196	173	51***
Feedback*	97%	99%	100%**	99.2%	98.9%	92.6%

*Q: The conference has helped build my sector knowledge by providing an opportunity to share best practice and networking opportunities.

**Excluding November 2022 as evaluation didn't take place.

*** Included 2 free places offered from membership survey.

Networking and wellbeing conference

	2025 (1 online event)
Delegates	34
Feedback (Good or Excellent)	100%

Professional Development Conference

	2020 (3 Virtual Event)	2021(2 virtual & 1 physical)	2022 (2 physical events)	2023 (2 virtual & 1 physical)	2024 (2 virtual & 2 physical)	2025 (2 virtual & 2 physical)
Delegates	234	205	160	212	213	192***
Job level – manager and above	19%	30%	20%	26.4%	34.3%	28.1%
Feedback (Good or Excellent)	91%	84%	86%	100%	96.2%	98.3%*

*November event feedback not included as event not taken place at time of writing.

***Included 6 free places offered to group VC's as a thank you for their work at the February 2025 event.

Emily Day

Vice-Chair (Training)

November 2025