

Karen Thrumble - Head of Local Authority Pension Performance Analytics

In the 27 years prior to joining PIRC Karen worked within the accounting, valuation and performance measurement divisions of WM Company which was owned variously by Bankers Trust, Deutsche Bank and, for the last decade, State Street. Over this time Karen has had a variety of roles, usually client facing but including Head of Product Development.

Karen has been variously a consultant, Head of UK Charities, Head of UK Pension Funds and, as Head of Local Authority Services was responsible for all aspects of the service to this market over the last 20 years. As a result she has an unparalleled understanding of the structure and performance of this group. The long term perspective that she can bring has proved invaluable in an industry where memories are short and people turnover is high.

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Neil Sellstrom – Consultant

Neil is a well-known figure around the LGPS with over 15 years experience initially as investment and governance lead at North Yorkshire Pension Fund and for the last 9 years as lead advisor for Pensions and Treasury Management with CIPFA. Neil has led on the development of policy and publications for CIPFA which has resulted in a range of guidance covering Funding Strategy Statements, Annual Reports, Administration Expenses and Governance Principles around asset pooling. He organises a number of conferences and regional workshops on LGPS issues collaborating with various partners to bring the necessary expertise. Neil prepares market updates and delivers training to officers, committees and boards members.

Neil brings this expertise to support the Local Authority Pension Performance Service where he focusses on presenting to investment committees and industry groupings and marketing the many benefits of peer group analysis.

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Tim Bush - Head of Governance and Financial Analysis

In his role within the Local Authority Pension Performance Service Tim brings his analytical skills to the researching of the data and to reviewing the analysis of that data. Tim also provides client management support and attends presentations to present our findings.

Tim is responsible for developing the analysis of capital management, governance audit and accounting issues in PIRC's research process, in addition to contributing to engagement on public policy work on these issues.

Tim spent eight years as a director of Hermes Focus Asset Management. In this role he was responsible for investment in, and turnaround of, underperforming listed companies, applying private equity skills within a quoted company environment. Tim holds the Investment Management Certificate of the UK Society of Investment Professionals and is a former member of the governing council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

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