



ADCH Regional Coordinators - Autumn 2026 Meeting Notes

Thank you to everyone who joined the two Autumn Regional Coordinator meetings. These combined notes bring together updates and discussion from both sessions.

Regional Coordinator network

The network has continued to grow and now includes **13 regional groups and 16 Regional Coordinators**, providing good coverage across most of jurisdictions represented in our membership. Recent developments include new or additional coordinators in the North West, East of England and Wales, together with the new London & Kent group and the Sussex group joining the ADCH regional network.

Updates from Regional Coordinators

East of England

Hayley and Charles reported positive growth in the group, with several new organisations becoming involved and members making active use of Teams to share information, ask questions and coordinate support for animals. Recent discussions have included collaborative approaches to multi-cat households and how organisations can work together to support with placements.

South Midlands

Peter reported a well-attended September meeting, which included an update from an RSPCA representative, a session on behaviour and a tour of the host centre. The group also continues to encourage members to network and support one another outside formal meetings.

South West

Sarah and Grace reported that the South West group continues to see good attendance and engagement across its virtual and face-to-face meetings. Members are regularly sharing knowledge, contacts and practical support, including helping one another to find suitable spaces for animals. The group's Teams channel is also helping members remain connected between meetings.

North Midlands

Ben reported that the group currently has a core of around five or six organisations, all ADCH members, and that growing participation remains a priority. The group's July meeting was hosted by an organisation that had recently purchased its own premises, giving members an opportunity to visit the site and share ideas and experience as the facilities are developed. The group is continuing to build its network, with its next meeting expected towards the end of the year.

Sussex

Danielle introduced the Sussex group, which originally came together during Covid and has now joined the ADCH regional network. The group meets regularly to share successes, challenges and ideas and has previously worked collaboratively on animal transfers. Future opportunities include inviting speakers, developing links with local authorities and increasing awareness of the support available through ADCH.

London & Kent

Sakura has held the first London & Kent meeting. Building engagement is likely to take time, particularly given the range of organisations across the region and barriers around availability and technology for some smaller rescues. Multi-animal households were a key topic at the first meeting.

Discussion highlighted the value of encouraging **operational colleagues**, such as centre managers, intake teams and others working directly with cases, to attend regional meetings. Organisations may also wish to involve different colleagues depending on the agenda.

Islands

Steve highlighted the particular geographical and legislative challenges faced by organisations across Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man. The group meets online and uses a group chat to keep in contact between meetings when needed.

Scotland (received from Rachael by email)

We've had a couple of in person meetings, in Telford at the conference and at Glasgow SSPCA centre, as well as an online group call. Engagement is still quite low, with 4-5 active organisations and another 4-5 on the mailing list. Feedback from the active organisations has been really positive though, and we are seeing the benefits of making contacts and developing relationships in our region.

East Midlands (received from Sarah by email)

The group has started to grow which is great, we have had 2/3 new members over the last couple of months. Our most recent meeting was this week on the 30th and we had Battersea academy attend to share some information. Next meeting is booked for Dec when I hope to have someone from Pets Foundation join us.

My only real issue at the moment is trying to get the group members to suggest some agenda topics, but I hope as the meetings are now becoming more regular this will become easier as we all relax in to the format.

North West (received from Lindsay by email)

Our Regional Group is going well, though. We have continued to share resources and ideas with one another, from smaller things such as beds and food to larger items such as unused UPVC pens. It's been incredible to see the resources that can be shared between groups, and we really benefit from being able to support one another in this way. We have also continued to welcome and accept new members into the group.

Our next Regional Group meeting is scheduled for 5 November. We're hoping to meet face-to-face at the new Merseyside Cat Centre, which will also give us the opportunity to have a tour of the centre. We're really looking forward to continuing to build engagement and support across the group.

Northern Ireland – no update received

Yorkshire and Humber – no update received

Wales – no update received

ADCH updates

Staffing:

Caroline Johnson has been appointed as ADCH's new Executive Director. A new bookkeeper and administrator has also been appointed, and recruitment is taking place for an Events Manager, Membership Manager and Fundraiser, bringing additional capacity to the ADCH team.

Peer mentor support:

ADCH Peer Mentors can offer informal one-to-one conversations to organisations considering ADCH membership. This can include answering questions about membership and the application process, as well as supporting organisations preparing for assessment. Regional Coordinators are encouraged to get in touch if someone within their group may benefit.

Fundraising support:

Rachel Frost, Events and Community Fundraising Manager at Birmingham Dogs Home, has joined ADCH as a Volunteer Adviser and is particularly keen to support smaller

member organisations with fundraising ideas, advice and a sounding board. Regional Coordinators are encouraged to get in touch if someone within their group would like to be connected with Rachel.

ADCH Finance Group:

A new online finance group has been established with ADCH Treasurer Peter Hepburn. The first meeting is planned for **26 November** and is open to colleagues working in finance within member organisations.

Member involvement and feedback:

The Membership Engagement Committee is moving towards a more flexible working-group model, creating opportunities for members to contribute to particular areas of work without necessarily joining a standing committee.

Regional groups are also encouraged to share:

- ideas for topics or speakers for future ADCH conferences; and
- suggestions for additional member benefits that organisations would value.

Feedback from regional groups will help ADCH understand members' priorities and shape future support.

Webinars:

ADCH is trialling opening selected webinars to non-members where the content may have wider relevance. The Tackling Animal Hoarding webinar on 22 October is the first trial, with non-members able to attend for **£25 + VAT**.

AOB

Growing regional group engagement:

A helpful theme across both meetings was how Regional Coordinators can continue to build participation and make their groups valuable to members.

Ideas shared included:

- using Teams or WhatsApp to keep members connected between meetings and provide an easy way to ask for help;
- seeking suggestions from members when developing agendas;
- encouraging networking and relationships outside formal meetings;

- involving relevant external organisations, including local authorities and police;
- inviting operational colleagues who are directly involved with the issues being discussed;
- allowing different colleagues from the same organisation to attend depending on the meeting topics;
- welcoming useful connections from neighbouring regions where appropriate; and
- using speakers and workshop-style sessions to encourage discussion and shared learning
- There was also reassurance for newer groups that building attendance and engagement can take time, with established groups describing how participation and relationships have developed gradually.

Cross-regional collaboration:

- There was a useful discussion about improving the way organisations share requests for animal spaces, particularly for large or multi-animal cases.
- While maintaining a central database of available spaces could be difficult because capacity changes quickly, there was interest in strengthening communication between Regional Coordinators. One suggestion was a **Regional Coordinator Teams group**, which could provide a place to share requests that have not been resolved within an individual region.
- The value of cross-regional working has already been demonstrated through a recent case where Regional Coordinators, ADCH and organisations from different areas worked together to support a member undergoing significant operational change and find placements for animals needing to move.

Actions and follow-up

- **Regional Coordinators:** Let ADCH know about organisations that may benefit from Peer Mentor membership support or fundraising support from Rachel Frost.
- **Regional Coordinators:** Continue sharing upcoming meeting dates and feedback/minutes with Michelle. Adding Michelle to regional group mailings can be an easy way of keeping ADCH updated.

- **Regional Coordinators:** Gather ideas from groups of suggestions for future conference topics/speakers and potential member benefits to share with Michelle.
- **ADCH:** Explore establishing a Regional Coordinator Teams group to strengthen communication and cross-regional support.

Thank you to all Regional Coordinators for your continued work in bringing organisations together, sharing knowledge and creating opportunities for collaboration across the network.