

# HR Positives

## CAN IT REALLY BE SEVEN YEARS?

This month marks seven years since the Forum began – something we still find hard to believe...

The packed Port Vale boardroom was evidence of our success, but we're never going to rest on our laurels: we want to do even more to support and engage with our members through stimulating and thought-provoking sessions offering opportunities to learn and contribute in equal measure.



## SPEAKER'S CORNER

Acorn Occupational Health's Hayley Rhodes and Isabel Burrows painted a fascinating picture of how their discipline has changed over the years...

The journey has taken practitioners from being dispensers of plasters and paracetamol (to get people back to work as quickly as possible), to proactive partners in workforce management, focused on prevention rather than cure.

But it's never quite that simple in a world where they have to balance the needs of a business with those of individual employees variously dealing with factors such as mental health, menopause and neurodiversity issues – not to mention the challenges around AI and home working.



Isabel Burrows

Hayley Rhodes



## NEXT MEETING

14 May 2026

Topic TBC

[CLICK HERE](#)

to book your next meeting

## BECOME A MEMBER

[CLICK HERE](#)

to contact Kaye for more details



## VIEW OUR HR DIRECTORY

[CLICK HERE](#)



## FUTURE FORUM DATES

9 Jul 2026

10 Sep 2026 | 12 Nov 2026

## CARDS ON THE TABLE

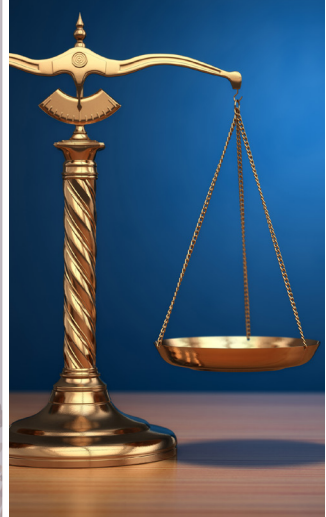
We're still offering Members the opportunity to ask for support from the room privately, rather than as a 'shout out'.

Use the cards on the table to note your issue and contacts details and you will be invited to link up with someone in the room who has relevant experience or skills on a confidential basis.

## MEMBERSHIP PLACES AVAILABLE

We've had a few enquiries recently about Annual Membership – there are a just a few places left, so get in touch with Kaye if you want to secure yours.

## EMPLOYMENT LAW LATEST



[CLICK HERE](#) for the new update from Karen Coleman at Excello Law which features:

- + Employments Rights Act 2025 provisions coming into effect in 2026 including:
  - Industrial Action and Trade Union activity changes
  - Statutory Sick Pay and various new Parental Leave arrangements plus Pregnancy and New Mother Protection
  - Whistleblowing for Sexual Harassment
  - Redundancy consultation
  - Fair Work Agency (FWA) update
- + Recent Case Law Decisions

## JOIN OUR FIRST 'LUNCH & LEARN'

There still a chance to join our first online 'Lunch and Learn' Positive Wellbeing Session.

It has been scheduled for Wednesday 15th April with Wellbeing coach Helen Dos Santos.

The theme is 'How to find your 'calm' in a role that never pauses.' She says 'If you don't think you have time to join the session – it's probably for you!'

The price is **£30.00** or **£20.00** for Members, [CLICK HERE](#) to book your place.



OUR CHARITY OF THE YEAR

**£301.88** raised YTD



Positive HR Forum  
Wellbeing, Engagement & HR

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