



ELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2026-27

(BY-ELECTION)

Notice and Call for Nominations – Closing noon 30th October 2026

Nominations are invited for election to the AEP's National Executive Committee. Successful candidates will commence their terms of office on 1st December 2026.

Following the close of nominations to the National Executive Committee (NEC) 2026-27 on 4 September 2026, candidates for positions of Regional Representatives for Region 8 and Region 9 were elected unopposed (please see the AEP website for details).

A **by-election** is now called to fill **five** positions on the NEC that will become vacant from 1st December 2026.

The NEC is the Association's governing body, responsible for the management of its affairs, including its employed staff and property, and for the development and implementation of AEP policies. The roles and responsibilities of NEC members are described in the [Members' Handbook](#), and can find out more [here](#). If you are interested in standing and would like to learn more about what would be involved in the role, a member of the NEC or staff would be happy to discuss this with you - send an email to enquiries@aep.org.uk in the first instance or contact your [regional rep](#).

The AEP is committed to advancing equality of opportunity and actively promotes the values of equality, diversity and inclusion. We welcome nominations from anyone who meets the eligibility criteria, particularly members from under-represented groups.

1. Offices to be elected – terms commencing 1.12.2026

NEC Office	No.	Term	Term Ends
<u>Nationally elected offices:</u>			
National Member	1	2 yrs	30.11.2028
Early Career EP * (NB: formally, the 'Newly Qualified Member')	1	2 yrs	30.11.2028
<u>Regional Representatives*</u> : (elected by members of the designated Region)			
Region 4: Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Derbyshire, Dudley, Herefordshire, Leicester, Leicestershire, North Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford & Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, West Northamptonshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire.	1	2 yrs	30.11.2028
Region 6: Bedford Borough, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea, Suffolk, Thurrock.	1	2 yrs	30.11.2028
Region 10: Scotland (all unitary authorities in Scotland)	1	2 yrs	30.11.2028

NB: Offices marked * may be held by two members elected jointly. See [Guidance Notes](#) for eligibility to stand.

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2. Who can stand for election?

The table below summarises the membership categories eligible for each office. For further details of eligibility please see the accompanying [Guidance Notes for Candidates](#).

NEC Office	Full Member	Trainee Member	Can be held jointly *
National Member	YES	YES	NO
Early Career EP ('Newly Qualified Member')	YES	NO	YES
Regional Representative †	YES	YES	YES

* Two eligible members may stand for and be elected on a **joint basis** to share the responsibilities.

† Candidates for office of Regional Representative must also be members of that Region.

Candidates for election to the office of 'Newly Qualified Member' must have been qualified for no more than 2 years at the time of this election. (NB: see [Guidance Notes](#) for further details).

3. Committee members completing their terms of office on 30.11.2026:

Member	Office held
Bernadette Cairns	- National Member
Minoushe Grant	- Early Career EP ('Newly Qualified Member')
Kate Forder	- Region 4 representative
Jane Reichardt	- Region 6 representative
Catherine O'Flaherty	- Region 8 (Northern Ireland)
Rachel Jones	- Region 9 (Cymru / Wales)
(Currently vacant)	- Region 10 (Scotland)

4. Committee members continuing in office:

Member	Office held	Term Ends
Lisa O'Connor	- President.....	Nov 2027
Kate Fallon	- Vice-President (<i>President from 1.12.2027</i>).....	Nov 2029
David Beaumont	- Honorary Treasurer.....	Nov 2027
John Drewicz	- Association Secretary.....	Nov 2029
Lynne Mackey	- Chair of Employment Policies Subcommittee.....	Nov 2027
Dewi R Hughes	- Chair of Professional Policies Subcommittee.....	Nov 2027
David Webster	- National Member.....	Nov 2027
Django Wylie	- Trainee EP Member.....	Nov 2027
Catherine Paxton	- Region 1 representative.....	Nov 2027
Jane Herod	- Region 2 representative (joint).....	Nov 2027
Sarah Prall	- Region 2 representative (joint).....	Nov 2027
Freia Schulz	- Region 3 representative (joint).....	Nov 2027
Sophie Driver	- Region 5 representative (joint).....	Nov 2027
Simon Ungar	- Region 5 representative (joint).....	Nov 2027
Ellie Hayes	- Region 7 representative (joint).....	Nov 2027
Tamzin Messeter	- Region 7 representative (joint).....	Nov 2027

5. AEP Electoral Regions

The AEP's electoral Regions are listed below. Membership of an electoral Region is normally determined by a member's **place of work**, unless another address has previously been notified to the AEP for this purpose.

Region 1: Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Darlington, Doncaster, Durham, East Riding of Yorkshire, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Kingston-upon-Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, North Tyneside, North Yorkshire, Northumberland, Redcar & Cleveland, Rotherham, Sheffield, South Tyneside, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland, Wakefield, York

Region 2: Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen, Bolton, Bury, Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Cumberland, Halton, Isle of Man, Knowsley, Lancashire, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Sefton, St Helens, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Warrington, Westmorland, Wigan, Wirral.

Region 3: Bath & North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gibraltar, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Plymouth, Poole, Service Children's Education, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Torbay, Wiltshire.

Region 4: Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Derbyshire, Dudley, Herefordshire, Leicester, Leicestershire, North Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford & Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, West Northamptonshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire.

Region 5: All London boroughs.

Region 6: Bedford Borough, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea, Suffolk, Thurrock.

Region 7: Bracknell Forest, Brighton & Hove, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Guernsey, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Jersey, Kent, Medway, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, Surrey, West Berkshire, West Sussex, Windsor & Maidenhead, Wokingham.

Region 8: Education Authority of Northern Ireland (EANI).

Region 9: All unitary authorities in Cymru / Wales.

Region 10: All unitary authorities in Scotland.

6. Guidance Notes for Candidates

This guidance is provided for members seeking nomination for office to the AEP's National Executive Committee and for members wishing to nominate a candidate. It is based on the Rules and Regulations of the AEP's Constitution as set out in Section I of the Members' Handbook (which can be found on the [AEP website](#)) and on previous rulings by the NEC.

Who can stand in this election to the NEC?

Only **Full** and **Trainee** members of the AEP can be elected to the NEC. A candidate must be **eligible** to stand for the relevant office **on the closing date for nominations**. The table below summarises the membership categories eligible for each office subject to election on this occasion, and whether the office can be held by two members jointly. Members may stand for election to more than one office but can be elected to, and hold, only one office.

NEC Office	Full	Trainee	Can be held jointly *
National Member	YES	YES	NO
Early Career EP ('Newly Qualified Member')	YES	NO	YES
Regional Representative †	YES	YES	YES

* Two eligible members may stand for and be elected on a **joint basis** to share the responsibilities.

† Candidates for office of Regional Representative must also be members of that Region.

A candidate for election to the office of **Newly Qualified Member** must be a Full member of the AEP and registered with the Health and Care Professions Council as an educational psychologist at the closing date for nominations. They must have been "**qualified for no more than 2 years**" at the time of this election. For the avoidance of doubt, the date of qualification will normally be taken as the date on which they were **first registered** with the HCPC as an educational psychologist, and the '*time of this election*' will be taken as the first date on which notice of this annual election of the NEC was published by the AEP.

A member's electoral Region is normally determined by place of work and not home address. For self-employed members, 'place of work' is deemed to be the address for correspondence or other address previously notified to the AEP. Details of all the AEP's electoral Regions are shown in [Section 5](#) of the Notice.

Candidates who are unsure whether their nomination will meet these requirements should **seek advice** from the Association Secretary as soon as possible and **before** submitting their nomination; email: aepelections@aep.org.uk with 'NEC Election 2026-27' as the subject.

Who can nominate a candidate?

Your nomination must be supported by **two eligible members** of the AEP. They must be Full, Trainee or Assistant members at the closing date for nominations; for **Regional Representative** posts, supporters must also be **members of your Region**. A member may nominate only **one candidate** (or, where applicable, two standing jointly) for the same office.

Submitting nominations

A nomination must be submitted using the **appropriate form(s)** provided by the AEP for **this election only**. The forms can be downloaded from the AEP website or obtained from the AEP office.

The Candidate (or Candidates, where two are standing jointly) should complete and sign the Candidate section of the appropriate nomination form and, where applicable, make clear whether standing on an individual basis or a joint basis. The members 'supporting' the nomination should then complete and sign the form in the relevant section.

Separate forms can be submitted for one nomination where it is impractical for a Candidate's supporters (or another Candidate, where two are standing jointly) to sign the same form. In this case each nomination form must clearly show the name of the nominated Candidate(s) and the office for which they are being nominated.

Where two Candidates are standing on a **joint basis** for one office, each may be supported by **different** members. Each nomination form submitted must include the names of **both candidates**.

If more than one form is to be submitted for a single nomination, all forms should be submitted together if possible; each form should state how many forms in total are being submitted for this nomination. Nomination forms that include any **significant alterations**, e.g. to the name of a candidate or a nominating member, may invalidate a nomination.

Nomination forms may be signed with electronically scanned signatures. If scanned forms are submitted these should be produced on a flatbed scanner if possible, for best legibility. The names and signatures of candidates and supporters must be clearly legible. Nomination forms may be submitted by post or email.

Including an Election Address / Statement

The Employment Act 1988 gives candidates in elections to a trade union executive committee the right to prepare an election address or statement in their own words. The AEP encourages every candidate to submit a statement and asks that this include a brief description of their views on the major professional issues of the day, an outline of the areas of their professional and trade union interests and a statement on any long-term strategic policies they would wish the Association to pursue. It would be helpful to also include, as appropriate, the full title of their present post and the name of their employer, or state if they are self-employed or trainee EPs.

An election statement **must not exceed 250** words, but candidates **standing jointly** for office may each submit their own statement of up to 250 words in length. Statements exceeding the maximum word limit will be truncated to comply with the limit. Election statements must reach the Scrutineer by the **closing date** for nominations. *Candidates should note that all statements will be published to members, even where a candidate is elected to office unopposed.*

Submitting your nomination

Your completed nomination form(s) must be sent to reach the AEP's appointed **Independent Scrutineer** at the address given below **NO LATER THAN NOON 30 OCTOBER 2026**. Nomination forms may be submitted by email or by post. Ensure that with your nomination form(s) you include a completed **Contact Details** form, to enable the Scrutineer to send you **confirmation of receipt** of your nomination. If you have not received confirmation of receipt of your nomination within seven days of posting it you should contact the Scrutineer directly (see their contact details below).

Independent Scrutineer

Section 15 of the Employment Act 1988 requires Trade Unions to appoint an independent scrutineer to conduct any ballots in connection with elections to the NEC. The AEP has appointed **Civica** to act in this capacity. Their address is: **Civica, The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon Road, N8 0NW**

Tel: **0208 8899 203**

email: nominations@cesvotes.com

Election Outcome

Where only one valid nomination for an office is received, the candidate (or, if applicable, candidates standing on a joint basis) will automatically be **deemed elected** to that office with effect from the date specified in Section 1 of this Notice. If there is more than one valid nomination for an office, the Scrutineer will arrange a

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postal ballot of all members entitled to vote. In that case, members will be notified in advance of the commencement and closing dates of the ballot, subject to agreement of balloting arrangements with the independent scrutineer.

A candidate who wins an election to **more than one** office, or already holds another office on the NEC, will be required to state which office they wish to take up / relinquish, before the result of the election for the relevant office is declared.

Declaration of results

The AEP will publish the outcome of the election as soon as possible following the close of nominations and any subsequent ballot that may be required. This will normally be by means of a notice placed on the AEP website. However, the AEP will endeavour to inform all candidates individually of the outcome of the election in which they stood, before the results are made public.

John Drewicz
Association Secretary
September 2026