

## **Report from North-East Local Group Meeting**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Venue:           Thistle Hotel  
                  Neville Street  
                  Newcastle upon Tyne.

This was the third such meeting. Up to now these meetings have been held in convenient central locations, and have been fairly informal in structure, participants sharing informal networking and informative conversations. The general feeling is that members would like to continue these meetings but with more focus and with an extension of numbers and interests.

A particularly successful element has been the sharing of experiences, support, encouragement and mentoring, along with the links with the national SEC committee, as two local members belong to this. The national committee is supportive. In order to enable the group to expand, it has offered a small grant, initially for a three-month trial period.

At this meeting, Graham Cook, a consultant with connections in the USA with behavioural improvement projects, presented a short resume of his background. This includes substantial research and successes on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as a future taster day planned for families at London Zoo. A lively discussion followed, which included ideas and suggested contacts for anglicising some of the ideas. All felt it may well be an area to use in the forthcoming SEC conference.

Other main areas discussed:

Consultancy in general and SEC procurement opportunities

Continued need for support with legal and a wide range of insurance needs for consultants – e.g. medical, legal document templates – e.g. contracts, indemnity

Partnerships and joint / associative working agreements

Expanding the group, new venue – costs?, potential speakers

Regular newsletters to all members to expand profile – nationally

Links with local NAHT, LA HT conferences & other consultancy agencies – e.g.

Northern Education

SEC Database improvements – easier profile updates