

## OPM acquires Dialogue by Design

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

OPM has expanded by taking over ownership of industry-leading consultation practitioners Dialogue by Design.

Chief executive of the OPM Group Hilary Thompson said “This has got 2012 off to a great start. Adding Dialogue by Design’s capacity and expertise to OPM’s presents an excellent opportunity, enabling us to offer the highest quality consultation and engagement services to organisations dealing with complex strategic, business and customer issues.”

The addition of Dialogue by Design means the OPM Group has enhanced ability to support public services across sectors: developing strategy, supporting innovative change, and improving outcomes for service users and communities.

The acquisition is a crucial part of OPM’s proactive response to changing patterns of need in a complex public service and regulatory landscape. Organisations across sectors and industries require ever-deeper levels of expertise in a growing range of areas, which is why at the same time OPM is also developing its relationships with a wider pool of close associates.

OPM and Dialogue by Design have collaborated for a number of years on consultation projects covering science, health and the environment and have strong shared values. Dialogue by Design’s capacity complements the consultation and engagement expertise that is a long established part of OPM’s portfolio.

Co-founder of Dialogue by Design Pippa Hyam, who will continue to work on an associate basis, said: “OPM has always been a natural partner for us, with complementary values, ways of working, skills and expertise. Being part of the OPM Group will allow Dialogue by Design to continue to deliver the highest standards of support to existing clients whilst developing new relationships.” Dialogue by Design itself doubled in size in 2011, successfully completing a number of high profile projects including the Low Carbon Communities Challenge and public consultation on High Speed 2.

This is an exciting development for OPM, an employee-owned public interest company, at a time when mutual business models are receiving considerable attention. OPM’s staff trustees were closely involved throughout the acquisition process, and are fully supportive of this exciting development. Chair of the trustees Sarah McDonnell had this to say: “This is testimony to OPM’s ambition and commitment to continuing to make a major impact. I’m really looking forward to welcoming a new set of employee owners into the fold.”

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