

30 January 2018

## **Sector Led Improvement: Performance Report**

### **Purpose**

For discussion

### **Summary**

This report presents an update of performance against the Memorandum of Understanding the LGA/IDeA have with MHCLG about the use of grant. It covers the period April 2017 to end of December 2017.

### **Recommendation**

That the Improvement and Innovation Board considers the report and agrees any follow-up action.

### **Action**

Officers to initiate any required action.

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## **Sector Led Improvement: Performance Report**

### **Introduction**

1. This report presents an update on performance against the key deliverables set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is in place between the IDeA and DCLG (now MHCLG) about use of the grant allocated for 2017/18.

### **Performance Summary**

2. The table below summarises the position on the deliverables contained in the MoU as at the end of the second quarter.

	Total	Green	Amber	Red
Deliverables	60	36	24	0

3. Overall good progress has been made in the third quarter of the year with a further 18 targets moving from amber to green. As reported previously, there were some instances where the calling of the general election had an impact on delivery numbers in the first half of the year. For example a number of planned peer challenges were postponed. In addition, following the terrible fire at Grenfell, much of the Principal Adviser time for a period was diverted to this issue.
4. Key highlights to date include:
  - 4.1 820 councillors already attended or booked on our leadership courses;
  - 4.2 78 peer challenges now delivered, an increase of 43 in one quarter;
  - 4.3 Tailored peer support through the use of member or officer peers provided for a total of 62 councils;
  - 4.4 Provided support to 37 councils as part of the new housing experts programme;
  - 4.5 Productivity experts deployed to date in 21 councils, helping them to save in excess of £34.5 million;

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- 4.6 Re-launched the shared services map which identifies efficiency savings in excess of £640 million;
  - 4.7 LG Inform received its 1 millionth hit;
  - 4.8 Provided support to 34 councils to improve the way they engage and communicate with their communities;
  - 4.9 Supported 23 councils with help to get more of their services online, provided over 100 officers with access to free training on Digital Academy courses;
  - 4.10 Held a very successful Innovation Zone at the LGA conference;
  - 4.11 Launched a series of new officer development programmes in conjunction with SOLACE;
  - 4.12 Delivered savings of 23% in audit fees for councils for 18/19. Saving councils over £6 million;
  - 4.13 Supported 10 councils with a managing demand programme;
  - 4.14 Provided financial advice to 30 councils through our Finance Advisers and other means;
  - 4.15 Placed 130 graduates as part of cohort 19 of the ngdp.
5. In terms of progress in achieving MoU outcomes as a result of the work:
- 5.1 feedback continues to demonstrate that over 90% of participants in our leadership programmes feel more confident in their role as a result of participation in the programme;
  - 5.2 47% of participants from the three main political groups have, within five years, gone on to leadership positions within their authorities;
  - 5.3 two-thirds of a basket of performance indicators commonly used by councils to assess their own performance across a wide range of services have continued to improve;
  - 5.4 levels of public trust and satisfaction in local government remain high. 60% of responding residents trust their council either a great deal or fair amount. Resident satisfaction with the way councils run things is consistently high at around 65%;

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- 5.5 no further authorities have entered formal MHCLG intervention in the year and good progress is being made in Rotherham and Tower Hamlets to come out of intervention. In the case of Kensington and Chelsea, whilst a taskforce has been appointed there has not to date been any formal intervention by the SOS using his powers under the 1999 Act. The LGA have seconded staff to the council to help them deal with the aftermath of the fire and are supporting a major review of governance in the authority. At the time of writing the report, the Secretary of State had commissioned a “best value” inspection in Northamptonshire which is due to be completed in March;
- 5.6 finally almost 90% of council leaders and chief executives say the LGA support has had a positive impact on their authority.

#### **Financial Performance**

6. The grant agreed for 2017/18 totals £21 million. As at end of December 2017, the forecast is for full spend.

#### **Improvement Programme – Priorities for 18/19 Onwards**

7. Discussions with MHCLG about the shape of the improvement programme for 18/19 have continued since the last Board meeting. Officers have shared with them the priorities that the Improvement and Innovation Board and the IDeA have highlighted, following the consultation with the sector during the autumn. This included continuing with the key themes within the current grant agreement around peer support, leadership development and efficiency and productivity.
8. As in previous years the provisional local government finance included confirmation that sufficient resources had been set aside to enable sector-led improvement to continue and that it was the Government’s intention to announce funding to IDeA, following negotiations.