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Case study activity: Local Cultural Improvement Networks – Update

Purpose of report

For noting and to support the Board's discussion on improvement priorities.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the work and timelines for the Culture and sport Improvement Networks.

Action

Secretariat / CLOA Advisory Panel as appropriate.

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London Cultural Improvement Network

1. The London Programme will close on 30 September, though it is currently now operating with much reduced capacity. The programme is focussing on:

Delivering Outstanding Projects

- 1.1 Phase three of the London Library Change Programme which involves 26 boroughs collaborating on seven projects saving at least £6m. This will also lead to the development of reusable products to enable all boroughs to benefit and make further savings in 2012-15.
- 1.2 A study on “Accessing Funds to Support the Local Delivery of Culture and Sport “ has just been published <http://tiny.cc/fpx3o>

Developing a legacy for the programme

- 1.3 Development of tools and products
- 1.4 Identifying appropriate accountable bodies to further improvement and development of the local Authority Cultural sector
- 1.5 Knowledge transfer

Promoting sector led improvement

- 1.6 £30,000 has been secured to build capacity and develop sector led improvement approaches in London. Funding will be allocated to London CLOA and from September to March 2012 this will focus on:
 - 1.6.1 Further developing the LCIP peer programme
 - 1.6.2 Piloting new ways of working

Culture First

2. Culture First has funding through until March 2012 and is currently supporting a number of transformational projects including:
 - 2.1 Sport in Essex - towards a single entity that will bring together the 2012 Team, the staff of Sport Essex and the schools sports development teams into a new delivery vehicle.

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- 2.2 A review of service delivery options for Hertfordshire, including the future provision of museum services, is being supported by the Culture First team using techniques acquired from the Shared Services Architects training.
- 2.3 Review of dual use facilities in Suffolk – improvement plans in place for each individual school to maintain a sustainable sports community use offer, and a Community Use Support Framework is being developed that will provide ongoing support in a number of key areas to improve the efficiency, quality and consistency of service offered.
- 2.4 Cultural consortia building across Cambridgeshire & Suffolk - that will enable the culture and sport sector, and in particular civil society organisations, to work collectively in a partnering arrangement that will provide the necessary scale to bid for large scale public sector contracts.
3. The Culture First local events programme continues to be a key tool for engaging with senior managers across the sector – 40 organisations, including some civil society partners, have benefited from training on ‘How to develop a local outcomes framework for culture and sport’. Culture First piloted the approach with LGID and is currently working to further improve the framework by introducing an interactive element.
4. Furthermore Culture First hosted a training session to launch the Local Cultural Profile Tool (4/7/11). Working with DCMS, ACE and Sport England this training aimed to enhance understanding of participation at local level and improve the development of policy and provision through use of robust evidence.
5. Culture First is also working with the East of England LGA to support a culture and leisure portfolio-holder network for local authorities to collaborate, share best practice and address issues of mutual concern. A series of briefing notes on key topics have been compiled to help Elected Members better champion the role of culture and sport.

Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands

6. CIPEM is now closed, although the website will be available until Sept 2011 for people to tap into resources, toolkits and event info. They have a small amount of legacy funding, which is being passed to the sub-regional networks for improvement and efficiency purposes.
7. The key achievements in each of the sub-regions and their priorities for moving forward now CIPEM has closed are as follows:

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- 7.1 Many local authorities engaged in CSIT, and using the Efficiencies theme have strong improvement plans in place looking at issues such as community use of school sites and commissioning relationships.
 - 7.2 Leicester is leading a museums efficiencies project in the sub-region.
 - 7.3 Exploring the potential for Derbyshire Sport to become a Trust
 - 7.4 'Lincolnshire One' is delivering better outcomes for the arts and a new shared approach to governance.
 - 7.5 In Nottinghamshire implementation of an outcomes framework across the sub region will capture key cultural indicators
8. The CIPEM legacy is to encourage collaboration, innovation and motivation through a series of informal sub-regional culture and sport networks.

West Midlands Culture and Sport Improvement Network

9. Managed on a part-time, freelance basis and with funding now ended, it is running down the support available. WMCSIN has not focussed on improvement programmes, but has concentrated on supporting the local authority cultural sector to adapt to the impact of public sector financial restraints in the following ways:
- 9.1 Providing information on relevant developments and maintaining communications with a broad network of operational staff, management and Members in the culture and sport sector.
 - 9.2 Events to debate and inform on issues in the local authority cultural sector, to help LA's manage in the current climate. Joint events with CIPEM have taken place in both Birmingham and Leicester.
 - 9.3 Commissioning specific projects to support LA services and service change. Library Change Programme working with the MLA and the Society of Chief Librarians WM on the potential for significant changes in the delivery of library services, including shared services across the West Midlands. Birmingham consultants Black Radley produced a business case that was published in November 2011 and is now being used in various ways by the 14 library authorities as a catalyst to support the development, sharing and re-designed of services.
The Future of Arts Development WMCSIN commissioned Caroline Foxhall and Sally Luton to prepare the business case for an arts development change programme. This is currently being considered by local authorities.

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South East Culture and Sport Improvement Network

10. Key achievements are:

10.1 Network established with Executive leadership

10.2 Action Plan follows 6 pilot models of development (Brighton, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, Kent, North Kent, Wokingham, Thames Valley Cultural Forum)

10.3 1 day Training on Local Outcomes Framework

10.4 Forum Event: Evolution or Revolution: New Models of Development