

Progress of Regulatory Services Partnership Action Plan

ACTION POINT	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED
<p>1. Lobby for external funding from government for recruitment and leadership initiatives including:</p> <p>a) to continue and enhance the bursary scheme for EHO graduates (funding from top-slicing RSG). Gain additional and sustained funding for new national initiatives to assist local authorities recruit and retain staff.</p> <p>b) ODFM Capacity Building fund for leadership development in respect of regulatory services and strengthening cross professional skills as an aide to retention.</p> <p>c) DTI for a continuation of the Trading Standards Modernisation to fund TSO training scheme.</p>	<p>a) Applications for EHO training have increased since EHO bursary scheme introduced in 2001; - 2004-5: 74 students (the maximum) funded; - 2005-6: funding confirmed</p> <p>b) 2004-5: £1million of Capacity Building funding achieved for trading standards and environmental health recruitment and training: - Practical Training Placement Grants (match funded and well received by authorities); - Work Experience Placement Grants (low take-up by authorities – possible due to late availability of grant from ODFM); - In total, 147 match-funded payments and 57 work experience placements grants have been awarded. - £200k for career materials to CIEH and TSI - to be launched end March 2005.</p> <p>c) Lobbying of DTI</p>	<p>a) Ongoing; review of scheme due this year as councils cannot become dependent on this money being available; other skills shortages, e.g. building control, need attention</p> <p>b) £1million funding for training available 2005-6 with more flexible approach - New approach needed to training and career materials as funding cannot continue beyond 2005-6; - Practical training placements still an issue as numbers of students increases - CIEH and TSI career materials to be launched end March 2005.</p> <p>c) DTI has discontinued trading standards modernisation fund.</p>

<p>2. Develop a resource of best practice recruitment and retention case studies and maintain through a single website.</p>	<p>Being led by the Employers' Organisation; resource found on the EO website.</p>	<p>Ongoing; linked to CIEH AND TSI work.</p>
<p>3. Request every local authority in England and Wales to make a public commitment to support the Partnership and to pursue a recruitment and retention strategy.</p>	<p>July 2003 - Letter sent by Chairman of the Public Protection Executive to Leaders and Chief Executives</p>	<p>- Only 40 authorities signed up; - This approach to be reviewed.</p>
<p>4. Develop advice and guidance to help councillors when scrutinising regulatory services.</p>	<p>"Getting a slice of the action: Scrutiny toolkit for elected members"</p>	<p>Completed February 2004</p>
<p>5. Engage with politicians and officials in central government to enhance their awareness of the role and value of regulatory services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - June 2004 LGA/LACORS "roundtable" discussion with senior officials from key Whitehall departments; - September 2004 Safer Communities Board; - December 2004 discussions with ODFM. 	<p>Ongoing - next steps to be considered after Hampton Report.</p>
<p>6. Seek out champions and ambassadors from members and officers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early discussions through LACORS Members Focus Panel and TSI/CIEH conferences - Media sub group in EO set up with regional media campaign aimed at 15-18 year olds being set up; - appropriate references in newsletters, updates etc. 	<p>Ongoing – exploring links to LGA Reputation of Local Government project - investigate Performance Partnership link to funding.</p>
<p>7. Promote good practice examples of regulatory services' contribution to the broader well-being agenda.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research undertaken by LACORS to identify potential cases studies, available on LACORS website; - LACORS spoke at CIEH conference (September 2004) on the role of regulation in community development. 	<p>Ongoing; - 30 March 2005 LACORS conference on "Health and Wellbeing – is there a role for Regulatory Services?"</p>
<p>8. Carry out research on the views of local authority senior members and officers about regulatory services and gather their views about service improvement.</p>	<p>February 2004 - LGA/LACORS research publication 'who cares, wins'.</p>	<p>Repeat survey to be considered.</p>
<p>9. Maintain a website to demonstrate the progress of the recruitment campaign and enable wider participation.</p>	<p>EO website, with relevant links to LGA and LACORS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p><i>10. TSI and CIEH to work together to review opportunities for closer integration of their qualifications and the viability for joint delivery arrangements.</i></p>	<p><i>Initial discussions held</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Ask professional bodies to review progress</i>- <i>Central bodies to look at further options</i>
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