

Local Innovation Awards - Public Confidence Theme

Summary

The first round of the Local Innovation Awards included a community safety theme based around the public confidence agenda. The winner of this theme was announced at the start of March, and has received £560,000 to fund a programme to develop councils' ability to deliver against the confidence target. This report sets out details of what the programme will involve.

Recommendations

Board members are invited to:

- a. Note the inclusion of a public confidence related theme within the Local Innovation Awards, with the winner being Sunderland City Council.
- b. To offer comments on the programme of activity being developed by Sunderland in conjunction with the IDeA and Home Office in light of the presentation from Stuart Douglass, Safer Communities Manager at Sunderland City Council.

Action

LGA officers to reflect the Board's views in any LGA work around the development and delivery of Sunderland's programme.

Local Innovation Awards - Public Confidence Theme

Background

1. The Local Innovation Awards were jointly established in 2009 by the LGA and the Department of Communities and Local Government to replace the Beacon Councils scheme. As with the Beacon Councils scheme the aim of the awards is to recognise and celebrate partnerships that demonstrate innovative services, ideas, and ways of doing things, and raise standards by sharing best practice. The first year of the Awards had six themes developed from the top twenty LAA priorities, including a community safety theme.

The Local Innovations Awards – public confidence theme

2. The community safety theme recognised the contribution Community Safety Partnerships can make to increase public confidence in the ability of the police, councils and other partners to tackle the crime and disorder issues that matter locally. It therefore covered a wide range of community safety related activity such as reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, tackling serious acquisitive crime and preventing youth crime.
3. Applicants for the Awards needed to demonstrate how they had taken a systematic, strategic and innovative approach to tackling key local crime and anti-social behaviour issues and the impact this had had on public confidence. Five councils were shortlisted for the community safety theme award: Cornwall, Croydon, Sunderland, Tower Hamlets, and West Oxfordshire. The winners of the Awards were announced on 2 March, with Sunderland City Council winning the community safety theme.

The public confidence theme award winner

4. Sunderland's application was judged to have shown a well organised and effective approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and could demonstrate clear achievements. Details of Sunderland's application and evidence can be found on the Local Innovation Awards scheme website at: <http://www.localinnovation.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=17682217>
5. With the Award comes £560,000 of funding for Sunderland to deliver a programme in 2010/11 to develop local authorities' ability to deliver against the confidence target. Sunderland has been in discussion with the IDeA and Home Office about what activity the funding will support, and with both organisations developing a programme for 2010/11.

Sunderland's 2010/11 public confidence programme

6. The programme of activity for Sunderland over 2010/11 is still in development but aims to showcase what Sunderland has learnt and offer support to other Community Safety Partnerships and local authorities. In addition to agreeing the

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programme with Sunderland, the final programme will also need to be approved by the Home Office. Currently the programme is based around four themes: capturing Sunderland's existing good practice; piloting innovation in neighbourhoods; assisting other partnerships through mentoring; and providing courses through a 'community safety college'. Under each theme, there are a number of proposed activities including:

- Accredit officers in the City Council and partners to act as peer mentors;
 - Produce case studies on good practice in improving public confidence;
 - Production of guidance manuals on a range of issues including domestic violence, creating neighbourhood problem solving forums, and involving frontline councillors;
 - Provide peer mentoring support to CSPs needing assistance with confidence;
 - Work with Excellence Wales to support Welsh CSPs;
 - Promote the integration of the Local Criminal Justice Board with Sunderland's CSP;
 - Hosting 'learning' visits to Sunderland;
 - Showcase the work at a range of local, regional and national events including the LGA Safer Communities Conference;
 - Develop leadership modules for councillors and community safety managers;
 - Assistance and support to CSPs who are finding the confidence agenda challenging; and
 - Sharing the work on an international level with the EU Crime Prevention Network to bring good practice back to the UK.
7. Stuart Douglass, Sunderland City Council's Safer Communities Manager has been invited to address the Board and talk about Sunderland's programme. Members are invited to comment on the programme of activity, and to consider whether there are any additional actions that could be proposed for it as part of the Board's work around the confidence agenda.

Financial Implications

8. Any costs associated with work on this area will be met from existing LGA Group budgets and resources.

Implications for Wales

9. While the Local Innovation Awards only apply to councils in England the LGA, IDeA and Home Office are all keen to ensure that Welsh authorities are able to learn from Sunderland's experiences and part of the work over the next year will be to spread the learning from Sunderland in Wales, as well as England.

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