

Note of last Improvement & Innovation Board meeting

Title: Improvement & Innovation Board
Date: Tuesday 12 July 2016
Venue: Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Declarations of Interest The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, asked for declarations of interest, and congratulated Mayor Dave Hodgson on his MBE and Cllr Paul Bettison on his OBE, both announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2016. No declarations of interest were made.	
2	Innovation Zone at Annual Conference The Chairman introduced the item and commended all involved in delivering a successful Innovation Zone at this year's LGA Annual Conference. Vickie Goddard, Improvement Support Adviser at the LGA, thanked the Chairman for opening the Innovation Zone, and also all members who gave their time to make it a success. Vicki went on to summarise the report with the following additional comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80 percent of sessions in the Innovation Zone were at full capacity.• A range of messages from a diverse audience and participants were welcomed and some common themes emerged from the sessions around shared learning, behavioural insights, pooled knowledge from stakeholders, and measured outcomes.• The next steps are to collate the feedback from delegates and update the database. Board members responded with the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members commended officers on a successfully run Innovation Zone;• Some sessions could have had a clearer focus e.g. how does a political leader drive innovation? This could have been mitigated	

with a strong focus on lessons learned and by providing clear examples;

- Future Zones could have a stronger focus on how innovation can help drive the transformation of service delivery;
- The potential benefits of building an element of challenge into the process of selecting contributors to the Zone.

The Chairman thanked the board for its constructive comments and suggested a vetting process through the board be put in place for Innovation Zone ideas for next year's conference. Dennis Skinner, Head of Improvement, thanked members, and assured the board that their comments will be taken into account for next year's annual conference.

3 Highlighting Leadership offer - 2016/17

Cllr Judi Billing, the portfolio holder for Leadership, introduced the item and summarised the key points of the report which updated the board on the current leadership offer and progress on take up. Cllr Billing also reflected on her recent participation in the NGDP and highlighted the fundamental importance of members engaging with council officers, especially graduate trainees, and urged members to do so.

Juliet Whitworth, Research and Information Manager, presented the interim results from a survey of councillors who have taken part in leadership training. The research had been framed in order to try and assess what impact was made and the interim results were largely positive. In depth interviews were to be conducted with a sample of councillors to explore this further.

Board members responded with the following comments:

- The leadership training statistics show low take up in the North of England. Cllr Billing responded stating that this is a consistent issue which the LGA had sought to address. Other members suggested that distance could be a barrier to take up for some parts of the country;
- Board members commented that they were pleased to see the gender imbalance in the leadership offer has diminished, and stressed the importance of sharing any learning from areas like Greater London which had seen a higher rate of take up by women councillors.
- The e-learning resources were commended by board members as an effective mechanism to offer training to councillors who also have full time jobs and therefore little time. It was also mentioned that these courses work best when they are run collaboratively with councils' own training and e-learning offer.

The Chairman summarised the comments of the board and stated that members' comments should be reflected upon to shape the leadership offer for the future.

Decision

The Leadership offer continue to be developed in the light of members' views.

4 Productivity Programme

Alan Finch, Principal Adviser, introduced the item and summarised some key points from the report which provided an update on key elements of the programme since the last meeting. Cllr Shirley Pannell, the portfolio holder for Productivity, (and for whom this was the last meeting) thanked the board and officers for its work on productivity, and emphasised both the good work done in this area by councils, and the importance of continued efforts in the current austerity climate.

Board members responded with the following comments:

- While there is consensus on the benefits of health and social care integration, in-year adjustments to the Better Care Fund do not help;
- The importance of active engagement by the Ministry of Defence in the One Public Estate programme. Mayor Dave Hodgson responded to this comment, informing the board that the Ministry of Defence has begun to engage more positively.

The Chairman introduced Steven Phillips of the Newton Europe Group, who presented research, commissioned through the productivity programme, into "*Exploring the efficiency opportunities through Health and Social Care integration*". Some key elements of the research included:

- The research shows that huge savings can be achieved through health and social care integration, and there is scope to widen the research to uncover further potential savings.
- The key messages from the research are:
 1. By focussing on the correct care pathway for citizens, significant patient / service user and financial benefit can be realised.
 2. Opportunities are driven by a variation in front-line decision making.
 3. Avoidance of admissions to acute hospitals is key in saving resources – and the role of preventative services is critical to reducing admissions.
 4. Discharge planning, whilst maximising independent outcomes is key in saving resources.
 5. Redeploying community nursing resource is a priority to realise the whole system opportunity.

- The research also posited a change model based on the themes pulled out of the best practice seen in the research.

Board members made the following comments on the presentation:

- Board members commended Newton Europe on their research and highlighted the size and complexity of the issue, and that shifting mind-sets and perspectives of stakeholders and health professionals is key to effecting change and utilizing resources across local systems more efficiently.
- Board members highlighted the particular challenges experienced in rural areas i.e. getting the correct care to people in sparsely populated areas.
- Some areas have successfully implemented a 'single front door' triage system which appears to be effective at reducing demand on acute hospitals. Steven Phillips responded by stating that the research identified that this type of system can also create excess demand, but that some variants of the model show promise and warrant further research.

Two national events were to be held in the Autumn to disseminate the findings of the research, which would also be promoted at the annual National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference in November.

Decision

The Board noted the Productivity report and the research by Newton Europe.

5 Reputation Campaign

Restricted.

6 End of Year report

The Chairman noted that this was the last meeting of the current cycle and thanked board members for their good work over the last year.

Decision

The board noted the end of year report.

7 Note of the Previous Meeting

Decision

Following the meeting members were offered a demonstration on the functionality of LG Inform and how it could help councillors in their work.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE	Bedford Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing MBE Cllr Shirley Pannell	North Hertfordshire District Council North Kesteven District Council
Members	Cllr Robert Gould Cllr Linda Robinson Cllr Barry Wood Cllr Dominic Gilham Cllr Janet Blake Cllr Harvey Siggs Cllr Claudia Webbe Cllr Phil Davies Cllr Bob Price Cllr Lewis Herbert Cllr Sue Woodward Cllr Sue Whitaker Cllr Colin Glover Cllr John Blackie Cllr Mike Haines Cllr Cherry Beath Cllr Paul Bettison OBE Cllr Howard Sykes MBE Mr Philip Sellwood	Dorset County Council Wychavon District Council Cherwell District Council Hillingdon London Borough Council Aylesbury Vale District Council Mendip District Council Islington Council Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council Oxford City Council Cambridge City Council Staffordshire County Council Norfolk County Council Carlisle City Council Richmondshire District Council Teignbridge District Council Bath & North East Somerset Council Bracknell Forest Borough Council Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Energy Saving Trust (EST)
Apologies	Cllr Keith Glazier Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE Cllr Michael Wilcox Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	East Sussex County Council East Riding of Yorkshire Council Lichfield District Council Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council