

12 June 2019

Improvement update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This report summarises our current improvement offer to the sector and our contracts with Sport England and Arts Council England.

Recommendation

That the Board confirm ongoing support of the Transforming Leadership Fund bid and note the activity of the team.

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Activity Update

Background

1. This paper gives a brief update on the activity of the LGA CTS team, specifically on the two main improvement programmes it provides; the Library and Cultural Peer Challenges and the Culture and Sports and Physical Activity Leadership Essentials courses.

Peer Challenges

2. Arts Council England have commissioned us to deliver four Cultural Peer Challenges and 10 Library Peer Challenges
3. Since the last board three library peer challenges have been completed at Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council on the 18 and 19 March 2019, Haringey Council on the 16 and 17 April 2019 and Worcestershire County Council on the 8 and 9 May. Feedback from the challenges has been positive.
4. We are in the process of making arrangements for the remaining challenges to be completed by the 31 July 2019.
5. Reading Borough Council have withdrawn their application for a Library peer challenge.
6. The councils taking part in the peer challenges are:

Type	Council	Dates
Library	Blackpool	11 and 12 June
Library	Haringey	16 and 17 April
Library	Kirklees	5 and 6 June
Library	Reading(Withdrawn)	8 and 9 May
Library	Rotherham	19 and 20 June (TBC)
Library	Sandwell	18 and 19 March
Library	Slough	30 and 31 July
Library	Southend on Sea	26 and 27 June
Library	Thurrock	8 and 9 July
Library	Worcestershire	8 and 9 May

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Culture	Oxford City	July 2019 (TBC)
Culture	Shropshire	19 and 20 June
Culture	Dacorum	July 2019 (TBC)
Culture	Kent	9 and 10 July

7. We are working with Arts Council England to develop a robust evaluation process in line with other LGA peer challenges to allow us to fully assess and demonstrate the benefits to councils undertaking these challenges.
8. We are also in discussions with Arts Council England about commissioning further Library and Culture peer challenges for the financial year 2019/20.

Leadership Essentials

9. Since the last board we have held two Sports and Physical Activity Leadership Essentials course for officers, delivered in partnership with Sport England.
10. The courses took place on the 3-5 April 2019 and 13-15 May 2019 at the University of Warwick. 29 delegates attended and the courses featured a range of good practise examples, leadership training and explanations of how Sport England and LGA can support councils.
11. Feedback from the event was very positive with 21 delegates very satisfied with the course.
12. We are working with Sports England to finalise future dates for both the Sports and Physical Activities Leadership Essentials courses for councillors and officers for the current financial year 2019/20.
13. We are working with Arts Council England to revise the Cultural Services Leadership Essentials courses to deliver a more strategic narrative and provide delegates with a more practical understanding of how change has been achieved in the case study area. This will be in place for the 2019/20 events. Any member steer or guidance on potential case studies is welcomed.

Transforming Leadership Fund Bid

14. Arts Council England have made funding of between £150,000 and £1 million available through the Transforming Leadership Fund.

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15. We submitted an expression of interest in partnership with the Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association, Community Leisure UK and the Leadership Centre, that focused on a leadership offer for officers. This was unsuccessful.
16. A further opportunity to bid is due to become available later in the year and work is ongoing to develop the bid further for resubmission.
17. A requirement of the bid is that 10% of the total funding costs is cash matched from other sources. The CTS budget has been increased to circa £40,000 for the financial year 2019/20 and we seek approval from the board to hold £15,000 of this for cash matched funding for this bid.

Implications for Wales

18. This work is devolved to the WLGA.

Financial implications

19. The Leadership Essentials courses are fully funded via contract with Sports England and Arts Council England respectively.
20. The Peer Challenge work is also fully funded by Arts Council England.

Next steps

21. The Board are invited to comment upon the current improvement offers and suggest any future areas of focus they believe would be valuable to the sector.
22. Officers to progress improvement work according to contracts and in light of member comments.