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

The board notes the improvement activity.

**Next Steps**

Lead Members are invited to comment upon the current improvement offers and suggest any future areas of focus they believe would be valuable to the sector.

Officers to progress improvement work according to contracts and in light of member comments.

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Improvement 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.

1. The LGA has grant funded contracts with both Sport England (two year contract) and the Arts Council England (one year contract) working in partnership to deliver improvement programmes.
2. In partnership with Arts Council England, the LGA provide Leadership Essentials Programmes for Cultural Portfolio Holders and Peer Challenges for both Culture and Library Services.
3. In partnership with Sport England, the LGA provide Leadership Essential Programmes for both Councillors and Officers as well as Deep Dive events for officers.

**Peer Challenges**

1. Arts Council England commissioned us to deliver Culture Peer Challenges and Library Peer Challenges in 2018/19.
2. Since the last board all peer challenges have been completed. 3 Culture Peer challenges and 9 Library Service challenges took place between March – July 2019. Feedback from the challenges has been positive with some senior managers from participating councils going on to become peer officers on other LGA challenges.
3. Two councils (Reading and Dacorum) withdrew from the peer challenge process.
4. The councils that took part in the peer challenges were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Council** | **Dates** |
| Library | Blackpool | 11 and 12 June |
| Library | Haringey | 16 and 17 April |
| Library | Kirklees | 5and 6 June |
| ~~Library~~ | ~~Reading~~ (Withdrawn) | ~~8th and 9th May~~ |
| Library | Rotherham | 19 and 20 June |
| 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 |
| Culture | Oxford City | 17 and 18 July |
| Culture | Shropshire | 19 and 20 June |
| ~~Culture~~ | ~~Dacorum~~ (Withdrawn) | ~~July 2019 (TBC)~~ |
| Culture | Kent | 9 and 10 July |

1. Since the last board we have worked 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. This has included the launch of an online evaluation form following the peer challenges. We are currently working to develop an evaluation form to be sent 6 months after the challenges are completed.
2. We are pleased to confirm that Arts Council England have agreed to fund a further 3 culture peer challenges in 2019/20 and following the success of the 2018/19 library peer challenges, we are also able to offer a further 7 peer challenges for library services.

**Leadership Essentials**

1. Since the last board we have finalised the Leadership Essentials programme for Sport and Physical Activities for councillors and officers in partnership with Sport England and the Leadership Essentials Culture Programme in partnership with Arts Council England for 2019/20.
2. There will be two Leadership Essentials: Sport and Physical Activity programmes for councillors taking place 7- 8 November 2019 and 20 and 21 February 2020.
3. Due to the high demand for places on the Leadership Essentials: Sport and Physical Activity programme for officers, an additional event was scheduled with three events now taking place between September and December. Events will take place on; 11 – 13 September 2019, 2-4 October 2019, 4 – 6 December 2019. All events are currently fully booked.
4. Since the last board we have worked 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.
5. We are pleased to confirm that Arts Council England will continue to fund the programme in 2019/20.
6. There will be two Leadership Essentials: Culture programmes for councillors taking place on the 9 – 10th November 2019 and 30 and 31 January 2020. This includes our first weekend event. Bookings on both events are high.

**Deep Dive Events**

1. In partnership with Sport England, three deep dive events have been arranged for officers between October – December 2019.
2. The events are available to officers who have previously attended the Leadership Essentials: Sport and Physical Activities programme and provide the opportunity to look at key topics form the programmes in more depth.
3. The following programmes will take place:
   1. 17 and 18 October – Understanding local systems/systems mapping
   2. 14 and 15 November – Storytelling and the Public Narrative
   3. 9 and 10 December – Community Engagement

Implications for Wales

1. This work is devolved to the WLGA.

Financial Implications

1. The Leadership Essentials courses are fully funded via contract with Sports England and Arts Council England respectively.
2. The Peer Challenge work is also fully funded by Arts Council England.
3. The Deep Dive Events are fully funded by Sports England.

Next steps

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