

21 January 2020

## **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.

### **Action**

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

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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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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**

5. Arts Council England have commissioned us to deliver 3 Culture Peer Challenges and 7 Library Peer Challenges in 2019/20.
6. Since the last board meeting the first library peer challenge has taken place at Kingston Upon Thames on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January.
7. The challenges will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
8. A six month impact evaluation survey has also been sent to those councils who participated in the 2018-19 peer challenges to gain feedback on the long term impact the peer challenges have had for the service.

### **Leadership Essentials**

9. Since the last board we have had three successful Leadership Essentials programmes taking place. Leadership Essentials Sport and Physical activity events for councillors and officers took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 respectively and received positive feedback.
10. Due to demand an additional Leadership Essentials Sport and Physical activity event for officers has been commissioned for March 2020.

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11. Leadership Essentials: Culture for councillors took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This was the first time that this event had been run on a weekend and received a high level of attendance and positive feedback from those attending.

### **Deep Dive Events**

12. In partnership with Sport England, three deep dive events took place for officers between October – December 2019. The events focused on understanding local systems/systems mapping, public narrative and engaging communities.
13. Since the last board meeting two deep dives took place; public narrative on the 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November and engaging communities on the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December. The engaging communities event was co facilitated with colleagues from Hackney Borough Council and the Active Wellbeing Society, Birmingham. Both events were well attended.
14. Due to demand an additional engaging communities deep dive event has been scheduled for the end of February.

### **Renewal of Contracts**

15. The LGA's grant funded contract with Sports England is due to come to an end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
16. Following discussions with Sport England the LGA has submitted a proposal to continue the contract with Sport England for a further year (April 2020 – March 2021)
17. As part of the contract the LGA and Sport England are proposing to deliver the following between April 2020 – March 2021:
  - 17.1. 3 leadership essentials events for councillors
  - 17.2. 6 leadership events for senior strategic officers
  - 17.3. 5 deep dive events for senior strategic officers
18. This would be the equivalent amount of events that have taken place under the two year contract delivered across one year, demonstrating a strong commitment to the continuous improvement of the sector
19. The LGA's grant contract with Arts Council England is also due to end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and we will open discussions about future work shortly.

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**Implications for Wales**

20. This work is devolved to the WLGA.

**Financial Implications**

21. The Leadership Essentials courses are fully funded via contract with Sports England and Arts Council England respectively.

22. The Peer Challenge work is also fully funded by Arts Council England.

23. The Deep Dive Events are fully funded by Sports England.

**Next steps**

24. 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.

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