

Notes of London Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Meeting

5 March 2013 at London Councils

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| **Present:**  Toni Ainge (Bexley) chair, Sue Thiedeman (Secretary) Dianna Neal (London Councils), Joel Brookfield (Sport England) Fiona Dean (Camden) Charlotte Penney (ACE) Alex Welsh(LPFA) Angus Robertson (Pro-Active) Ben Cackett (GLA) Christine Double (Pro-Active) Christine Parsloe (Merton) Howard Simmons (BHPR) Joyce Guthrie (Waltham Forest) Paul Hogan (LBBD) Tina Morton (TNA) Souraya Ali (London Councils) Marianne Locke (Harrow) |
| **1: Physical Inactivity / JSNA Tool**  **Dr Chris Payne from** Sustrans / South West Public Health Observatory gave a preview and demonstration of the HIPI (Health Impact of Physical Inactivity) tool which will be officially launched on 19 April on the [public health observatories website](http://www.apho.org.uk/)  The tool will be very useful in providing evidence in making a case for physical activity. The tool draws on robust evidence for diabetes, breast cancer, colon cancer and CHD and it is hoped that it will support JSNA at a local level to identify the risk factors of physical inactivity and the impact on population health.  The key message to get across to commissioners and decision makers is that 4 times more people are physically inactive (80%) than are smokers (20%) so the potential benefit is huge.  The recommended levels of physical activity to prevent ill health and disease is 5 X 30 minutes a week, there is on-going debate about whether this should be 30 continuous minutes or ten minute bursts; however any increase is exercise will be a good start towards achieving the target levels and will have benefits at an individual level.  Sustrans will be widely promoting the tool, including to DPH’s  **cCLOA and London Councils offered to help promote the tool to Chief Culture and Leisure Officers, Members and to Health colleagues and commissioners**. **Action ALL**  Other new tools emerging, include the Sport England HEAT tool and National Obesity Observatory Tool , both of which include cost benefit (as does the active travel HEAT tool for walking and cycling) Hopefully these will be ready in time for the next London c CLOA meeting. |
| **2 Culture and Leisure Resources Database**  **Souraya Ali** demonstrated a new resources database which she has been developing following the London cCLOA conference where a need was identified to bring available research and evidence into one place, to raise awareness of what is available and make it easier and quicker to find. This is because the demand for robust evidence is increasing and the capacity to find it is reducing.  The database is a matrix of data and evidence available for areas that cultural services can impact.  The database will be available on the London Councils website – probably in an excel format which enables the user to apply filters.  It will be updated quarterly and so anyone who comes across useful information should send it to Souraya as a matter of course.  Those present felt that the database would be incredibly useful. **Any feedback to improve the database, or any new sources of data and evidence should be provided to Souraya by 22 March Action ALL** |
| **3 Funding Outlook for Councils**  **John Rowney,** Head of London Councils Fair Funding Team gave a presentation on the funding outlook for councils, particularly focussing on the changes to the way Councils are allocated funding, which will no longer be based on the formula grant and will be allocated on a risk and reward basis to provide strong incentives to councils to perform in key areas such as economic development and building new homes and the move towards transferring risk to Councils by allowing them to generate their own income.  CSR2010 savings were disproportionately allocated to Local Government , actual savings required are around 33% and these have been front loaded, never the less Local Government has still only managed to achieve about half of the savings required and with a new CSR looming 2014/15 and 2015/16 will be extremely difficult. |
| **4 City Read 2013**  **Andy Ryan** from Stellar Libraries provided an update on last year’s programme which was hugely successful, based on “Oliver Twist”, saw over 900 events take place across London and all of London’s Borough library services taking part.  2013, is based on “A Week in December” by Sebastian Faulks and includes a digital offer and a large programme of events. The launch will take place on 2 April at the Freeword centre and an invitation will be extended to cCLOA as well as to Mayor’s and Leaders from each Council.  The 2014 book has been selected “Toby’s Room by Pat Barker. |
| **5 London Cultural Peer Programme Update:**  **Sue Thiedeman** provided an update on the London Cultural Peer Programme which was developed to build on the resource originally created by the Local Authority Improvement programme which trained peers to challenge borough’s CSIT self- assessments. Some of the original peers have now left but a training programme has recruited and trained more peers and this now includes peers from all areas of cultural services, including libraries and archives (which were previously underrepresented). There are approximately 50 peers which currently provide a free resource.  The programme offers a free resource to cultural services and development opportunities to peers. It is a good way of embedding sector led improvement. There is no need to complete a self-assessment, peers are able to provide challenge on any aspect of a service, be it a review a new policy or project or any other aspect that could benefit from external challenge or validation.  Monitoring of projects undertaken so far have identified that both the peers and the host organisation gain valuable learning and insight from the process. **Please contact Sue to find out more or to offer a project as the peers are an underutilised resource.**  Fiona Dean suggested Camden may be interested in looking at the impact of the Olympic legacy in Camden, particularly impact, participation and outcomes.  Christine Parsloe suggested that it may be time for services to revisit elements of the CSIT bench mark – on particular themes, rather than doing the whole thing.  ST advised that it was possible to use the RED THREAD themes to conduct mini reviews and documentation has been prepared for this; however it is not necessary to complete a self - assessment to have a peer challenge, a simple request form has been developed to capture the necessary information. |
| **6 Standing Items**  **Notes of Last Meeting –** none - as this was the conference, however notes from workshops and presentations are on the website, you can view them [here](http://www.cloa.org.uk/cloa-about-us/cloa-regions/2-general/98-meetings-2012).  **NCLF:** have applied (as part of a consortium bid) for the ACE Commissioning Grant of £895K over three years to support arts and cultural organisations (including libraries and museums) benefit from public sector commissioning.  The leading Learning programme is currently underway.  **Cultural Agencies Report:**  **ACE:** the reorganisation is nearing completion and the new structure will be effective from July; ACE officers are currently in the transition phase; Joyce Wilson is the new Director of Combined Arts and Capital and will be the new head of the London Office; she will attend the next London cCLOA meeting on 2 July.  **TNA:** have funded ALCL to undertake a strategic piece of work with archives across London.  **GLA:** Ben Cackettasked whether artists’ studios would be affected by the change in planning regulations. All agreed that the ability to get more studios in the future would be an issue, but that in many cases existing studios are already protected by exemptions.  Action ST: Thanks to be given to Sam Reader for co-ordinating the report which officers found extremely useful. |
| **A.O.B.**  **Marianne Locke:** Harrowis nearing the end of the tender process for Arts and Leisure which has been undertaken jointly with Ealing and Brent, they are willing to share learning on joint procurement with colleagues.  **Joel Brookfield:** advised that the Pro –Actives will remain to provide local delivery in some form. The next meeting of the sub group examining this will be on 27 March; Dianna Neal has copies of the notes from the previous meeting if anyone wants them.  **Anne-Marie Pickup** joined the meeting to remind colleagues of the need to submit information for the 2012 evaluation (previously circulated). Good case studies are still needed, together with any formal evaluations or information on the impact of volunteering, arts projects or community sports. 150 words or so will be sufficient and there is no need to rewrite, just submit what you have as it will all be edited into one style.  **Christine Parsloe:** advised that Merton have been developing aCultural Framework Based on Outcomes. The Framework has been developed in lieu of a strategy and will act as a tool which will be used by all staff and can also be used by external organisations. CP would like to share this with colleagues at a future meeting.  **Fiona Dean:** advised that funding is coming into sports in Camden, £800K for school sports and £300K to increase the disability sportsoffer. The Leisure management contract with GLL is working well as are the three community libraries that have been established, though it is worth noting that these do not form part of Camden’s library services offer and are in affluent areas of the borough.  **Paul Hogan:** LBBD has a shared CEO with Thurrock. It is also one of 3 pilots for the Henley Review on “Cultural Education” and would be happy to share with colleagues.  **Toni Ainge** advised that she is getting strong feedback that London cCLOA is valuable and needed, but that people still find it difficult to get to meetings. This puts us in a difficult position, especially when we have invited speakers.  Action ST: to attempt to update the mailing list  It was agreed that it would be useful to hold Action Learning / Peer Mentoring type sessions on specific topics. These would be for people needing information and learning on the topic and also for people with particular expertise or recent experience or innovation from which people may be able to learn.  Action ST: to find a date and promote and also to consult on future topics.  Toni recoded her thanks to Hilary Renwick who is retiring and who has given long and valuable service to the sector  People were reminded to respond to the London Assembly request for information on small theatres (previously circulated) |
| **Date of Next Meeting**  **Hot Topic session – “Contracting” TBA**  **2 July 2-4:30 London Councils**  **12 November – afternoon mini conference** |