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HELA

Update on work revising LA priority planning guidance

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Issue

1. HELA requested a brief update on task and finish group progress with replacing LAC 67/1 rev 3.

Background

2. LAC 67/1 rev 3 was reviewed last year and a draft LAC 67/1 rev4 produced. At its October 07 meeting however HELA declined to publish the draft LAC opting instead to ask the task and finish group to take a more comprehensive look at how the LAC might be replaced.
3. HELAs reasons for not publishing the draft LAC included the need for the task and finish group to take into account new dependencies such as the developing LAA agenda in England; advent of LBRO and its 'World Class Regulators' agenda; outcomes from REP phase 2 piloting by BRE; publication of the new, revised S18 HSC guidance 'standard' and the replacement of FIT3 after its completion at the end of 08/09

Current position

4. LAU and the task and finish group are completing the scoping stage of the work. We are identifying additional dependencies to those referred to above. (E.g. Likely outcomes from the BRE research into regulation of SMEs, links to Incident Selection Criteria [LAC 22/13] and work to reduce LAE1 reporting burdens)
5. Following LACoRS Policy Forum discussion on 7 Feb an outline 'user specification' for this work will be developed using the outcomes captured from that meeting and a wider trawl by LACoRS of liaison group views. LACoRS are also seeking additional LA members for the task and finish group from County/Chief Officer liaison groups.
6. Our expectation is that an outline project plan can be delivered by 7th March. This plan, based on the 'user specification' will set out deliverables and sub-products and allow various resources available (HSL, LAU, Task and Finish Group members, LACoRS etc) to be assigned.

7. LAU have also identified that FOD too are currently examining their own priority planning system with a view to revising it – this may provide an opportunity to ensure a greater degree of consistency between FOD and LAs. LAU are pursuing this with FOD on behalf of the task and finish group at present. Similarly, HSE work on 'segmentation' arising from the 'Fine Tuning' review has also been identified as potentially important to our project.
8. There is also an opportunity with the end of FIT3 (at least in its present form) to revise LA reporting arrangements and in particular the LAE1. LAU have been in contact with both CoSAS and CIPFA about reducing the LAE1 reporting burden on LAs whilst at the same time making better use of the information we do collect (eg CoSAS LA profile and county/regional profiles produced for last years 7 partnership conferences) and also in developing the LARNE (LA Reporting Network Exercise – a series of direct data feed pilots from LA software systems to HSE).
9. A further meeting of the task and finish group and another with HSL is expected when the LACoRS PF outcomes become available.
10. Further updates on the work of the group will be made available on the HELA web community.

Action

11. HELA to note progress and proposed action.

Contact

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