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HELA

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Issue

1. This paper asks HELA to note feedback from the 2008 National Partnership Conference and to agree conference arrangements for 2009 and 2010. The paper also asks HELA to consider the viability of Regional HELA Partnership Awards.

Timing

2. A decision on arrangements for 2009 conferences is required at this meeting to ensure arrangements can be rolled forward. Other decisions can be rolled forward to the September meeting if required.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that HELA agrees that

- a) In 2009 a series of regional partnership conferences are held;
- b) In 2010 a national partnership conference should be held in London or Birmingham;
- c) Regional groups are mandated to trial a series of regional HELA awards to be judged and awarded within the regions.

Background

4. An Annual HELA/Partnership Conference was part of the annual programme of events for several years up to 2007 when the single national event was replaced by a series of regional events. The regional events successfully targeted practitioners and to a lesser extent councillors. They were well-received locally, but feedback from FOD Partnership Managers was that interest would be reduced if the formula was repeated during 2008. A national event was therefore arranged in Manchester in November 2008. Various regional events were held on an ad hoc basis.

5. **Manchester Conference** – The conference was attended by 119 LA personnel, including 18 councillors. Feedback on the venue and content of the programme was favourable. Some aspects of the audibility of some presenters and visibility of overhead projections were criticised.

6. The conference cost approximately £23k to stage with £8k being recovered in charges. However, for the future we are instructed by BEU that it

is not appropriate to charge for this type of event. Ignoring costs recovered this gives a cost per LA delegate of £190.

7. HELA Partnership Award – Thirty four entries were received for the award. There was a generally high standard of entry, with most submissions containing much more information than was sought in the entry requirements. Six entrants gave a short presentation to the Manchester event and the winner and a runner-up were announced at the conference. An award was also voted for on the day by the conference audience.

8. A Greater Manchester project on work-related violence received the main award as well as the conference award. The awards rated highly in conference feedback and many delegates suggested that this element of the conference should be developed in the future as it provided an insight into what others were doing.

9. Proposals for 2009 – Some Partnership Managers held local events during 2008 and report a significant appetite amongst LA professionals for similar events during 2009. It is proposed that nine events should be held nationally during October/November 2009 (one in each HSE division plus a Wales event and a second event in East and South East to account for the likely large number of attendees).

10. Experience of recent local events suggests 80 to 100 delegates will attend each regional event, giving a national attendance of 700 to 900 delegates. Total expenditure is expected to be £65k (£7k per event except for London at £9k) and funds are available. Cost per delegate will be in the range £70 to £90.

11. HELA members may wish to contribute to events to raise the profile of HELA.

12. Each event would be based around a standard agenda covering

- Implementation and monitoring of S18 (the revised standard should be fully in place);
- A review of the implementation of the Regulator's Development Needs Analysis (RDNA) tool;
- Planning arrangements and priorities for 2010;
- Local priorities and issues;
- A Regional Partnership Award.

13. Regional Partnership Awards – The response to the HELA awards has been enthusiastic. Locally-judged awards may assist in capturing this enthusiasm. It is suggested that arrangements for judging the awards be made regionally and that LAU and/or LACORS staff provide an independent, out-of-region element to the regional judging panels. At this stage it is not proposed to involve HELA members in the judging process, or to badge the awards as "HELA".

Argument

14. The proposal for regional events alternating with a national conference on a two year cycle balances the need to engage local professional with the profile associated with the national event.

15. Local partnership awards recognise and support local achievement. The national HELA award recognises achievement at a national scale and publicises the progress being made. There is a danger that the local awards could be confused with and dilute the HELA Award “brand”.

Consultation

16. Views have been sought from LACORS and LAs locally via Partnership Managers. The Partnership Managers report very high approval for regional events and general support for regional partnership awards.

Financial implications

17. Costings for events are given in paras 5, 6 and 10 above. Funds for the regional events to cover hire of venue, refreshments etc have been secured. The organisational time will be met via the general resource of LAU and Partnership Teams.

Action

- 18.** Subject to agreement, the next steps will be
- a)** To develop and arrange a series of nine regional partnership events to be held in October and November 2009
 - b)** To take views from LA contacts on an appropriate venue for the 2010 National conference and report to HELA in September
 - c)** To implement a series of regional partnership awards for presentation as part of the 2009 round of regional meetings as (a)
 - d)** HELA members to consider if they should contribute to events in their official capacity.

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