

PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY

As part of the Practical Governance project, Auriola Consulting have just designed and undertaken a governance gap analysis with Boards.

A number of Board Secretaries and Chairs contributed to a workshop in London on 16 July to help shape the key issues.

Initial feedback suggests the survey has proved to be an interesting experience for many, self-assessing where their governance practice is now, compared to a future standard for governance

as a trust.

Ben Emm, who leads Auriola Consulting, said "We have already heard back from half the boards and are grateful for the valuable and insightful responses. However, because it's been a prime holiday period, we are happy to keep receiving returns from those boards who have not yet been able to respond."

The Probation Association intends to use the feedback to shape its future developmental assistance to boards.

The work will be complimented by a skills

and competency audit in the coming months and by practical input in three pilot Areas from Miranda Hughes and Gareth Hadley.

The first meetings have already taken place in Lancashire and Humberside, with Sussex due imminently.

The Probation Association will also announce shortly a Study Day in November to report on the different elements of the project and to consider, with members, the implications of the project's findings and the way forward on governance.

TWO CHAIRS SOUGHT FOR TRUST VISION WORKSHOP

The Trust Development Unit of the Probation Trust Programme has arranged a Probation Trust Vision Workshop for 1 October, 2009, and has invited PA involvement in the event.

The unit is seeking to establish at a national level what an agreed vision of a successful trust is, which in due course will inform individual trusts when developing their own vision and informing organisational development priorities.

One of the objectives of the workshop will be to begin the process of developing agreed values for the probation service.

The Association has been invited to nominate two Chairs from boards and trusts

to contribute to the workshop, in addition to Chief Executive Christine Lawrie and Governance Services manager Mike Caldwell.

The Association is therefore seeking expressions of interest for attending the event. These should be emailed to mike.caldwell@probationassociation.co.uk by Friday, 4 September, 2009.

If there is a high level of demand for places, the PA will seek to prioritise these with reference to a Chair's existing involvement in other PA-related activities and bearing in mind the need for geographical representation, as far as this is possible.

MORE AREAS JOIN PROJECT

Local Crime: Community Sentence (LCCS) - a partnership project between the PA and the Magistrates' Association - has continued to expand with more areas joining this year.

LCCS is an important community engagement tool which is proved to raise public confidence in community sentences.

The project involves magistrates and probation staff partnering each other and presenting offender case studies to community groups.

The project has the support of ministers and Michael Spurr, NOMS Chief Operating Officer, who has described LCCS as a very good mechanism for building confidence

in community sentences and improving engagement with magistrates.

LCCS has also been given a mention in the July edition of HM Court Service's *In Court* publication.

There are now 21 probation areas successfully delivering LCCS presentations with another nine at various stages of setting up the project.

A suite of presenter tools is being developed - including video and a format for use with push-button audience handsets - to make LCCS presentations more exciting.

- Members/Chiefs from areas not delivering LCCS can contact PR and Communications Manager Neil Lampert on 020 3008 7930 or 07891 348815 for a chat about how to set up.

OFFICE DIARY

3 August	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Succession Planning Committee
4 August	<i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager and HR Manager:</i> HR Strategic Board Project Group meeting
5 August	<i>Governance Services Manager:</i> NOMS ICT meeting <i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> Area visit
6 August	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Sustainable Development Working Group meeting <i>Governance Services Manager:</i> NOMS Audit and Corporate Assurance meeting
11 August	<i>Chief Executive:</i> Meeting with Jonathan Ledger, NAPO
12 August	<i>PR and Communications Manager:</i> NPS staff awards meeting with NOMS Communications team
18 August	<i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> SCCOG Joint Working Group <i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> Chief Officer Forum
19 August	<i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager:</i> Probation Qualification Framework Project Board meeting
21 August	<i>Employment Relations, Pay and Policies Manager and HR Manager:</i> HR Strategic Board Project Group meeting
26 August	<i>Governance Services Manager:</i> NPS ICT Board meeting

QUALIFICATION WORK DEVELOPS

The PA is continuing to contribute to the development of the new Probation Qualifying Framework (PQF).

The formal period of consultation closed on 31 July and our response was circulated to members on 30 July. The PA is grateful for sight of 15 local responses and one regional response to the consultation before the closing date, which were invaluable in helping us to frame our response.

Work also continues on addressing the HR aspects of the PQF, which is being undertaken by a project group of the HR Strategic Board chaired by Ken Bellamy, Chair of the North Yorkshire Board.

The outcome of the formal consultation work will be reviewed at the next meeting of the PQF Project Board.