

THE BRIEFING

For members of the Public Sector Management Network
Volume 11, Issue 4
November 2004

Public Sector Management Network

In this edition of The Briefing I am glad to update you on progress of this year's Top Team event. We have had in excess of 60 teams register to enter the competition and 47 high quality submissions. It is pleasing to see that we have had entries from different parts of the public sector and a number that are from cross sector partnerships.

The shortlisting process was very difficult with the quality of the submissions however, we decided to shortlist seven teams for the final with a number of commendations. If you want to attend this years event to be held on the 30th November 2004 then please refer to the attached leaflet.

Norman Broadbent International are in the process of the re-design of the new Public Sector Management Network wesbite.

Also included in this edition is news on our Policy Nets, facilitated by Steve Loraine looking at how to achieve performance improvement and Danny Chesterman on Developing Community Partnerships.

Noorzaman Rashid
Chair of the Management Network

POLICY NETS

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Now in its fifth year, this exciting Policy Net exploring the real issues around developing true community partnerships will be arranging a series of meetings in 2005.

This Policy Net will continue with a mixture of existing and new members and will have guest presenters at each of its three meetings in 2005.

The attached leaflet gives you more details on this Policy Net on how to join, the first meeting will be held in February 2005.

DELIVERING REAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

The Public Services Management Network is pleased to announce the latest Policy Net which will be facilitated by Steve Loraine.

This Policy Net will focus on how Public Sector organisation can achieve

performance improvement that can be sustained within the organisation.

For further details of how to join either of these Policy Nets then contact **Warren Tonks on 07709 049551 or e-mail warrentonks@hotmail.com**

TOP TEAM 2004

“the seven finalists announced”

The Top Team Competition 2004 is now in its ninth year, and aims to find the best team in the public sector and partner organisations. Interest this year resulted in 47 actual submissions.

The organisers can now announce the seven finalists, who will go through to the grand final on 30 November 2004, at Kensington Town Hall, London.

They are:

Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust - CONSENT Team

Wyre Borough Council - Food Safety Team

Shropshire County Council - Drug Action Team

Birmingham City Council - Strategic Management Team

London Borough of Southwark - Bermondsey Community Wardens Team

Tameside MBC - Client Services Team

Leeds Teaching Hospital - Neonatal Transport Team

The Top Team Competition has an advisory panel of chief executives and senior managers who will judge and present the award to the best top team nationally.

The competition is open to all teams across public, private and non-profit organisations - in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - that can demonstrate how they have made a real difference through effective contribution to cross-cutting issues in the following areas:

- innovation and creativity
- alliance building and collaboration
- breaking down barriers
- service and results focus
- service integration

The Top Team competition 2004 is organised by The Public Sector Management Network in partnership with the Improvement and Development Agency, Norman Broadbent Executive Resourcing, Deloitte and SOLACE.

The IDeA is sponsoring the competition and IDeA Knowledge will give this year's finalists the opportunity to share their examples of innovation and good practice on the website, once they have been selected.

For more information on how to attend this event please read the attached leaflet and email: warrentonks@hotmail.com or www.lgmn.org.uk with a list of delegates attending.

IDeA Business Plan 2004/05

The IDeA was created by local government for local government. Their work is grounded in the belief that local government has the capacity to lead its own improvement both by learning from itself and also through its unique democratic relationship with the communities and individuals it serves. They are ambitious for the future of local government and aim to help the sector realise its own potential and drive an improvement agenda of its own making.

The 2004/5 business plan sets out the Agency's medium term strategy and the actions we will take this year to achieve these goals. It also articulates the balance of their funding and how we spend the resources at our disposal.

In July 2004, the Local Government Association's (LGA) Quinquennial Review of the Agency's funding and impact was published. This was a positive report that made a number of challenging recommendations for the Agency to more effectively 'seize, lead and steer' local government improvement and development.

The IDeA is committed to acting quickly and effectively on the recommendations of the review and ensure that their own improvement journey is on track. Their business plan underpins this journey by setting a course and articulating the basis against which their performance will be held to account.

Their new Board and Chairman, Councillor Ian Swithenbank CBE, appointed in August 2004 will now take responsibility for delivering our strategy.

strategic context

The public sector and local government environment in which the Agency works changes constantly. For local government specifically, the power of community well-being was introduced in 2000; national e-government targets were set for 2005; Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) were introduced in 2001; and Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in 2002.

The outcomes of the Spending Review (SR 2004), Efficiency Review (Gershon) and revised approach to CPA in 2005 will prompt changes in the practice and performance of councils across England and Wales. The Laming report, *Every Child Matters* Green Paper and the Children Bill challenge local government at every level to improve services to children and young people.

Building upon the Agency's earlier achievements and in response to this changing environment, a new vision has evolved and is focused on:

- supporting local government and local councils more effectively in this new environment
- driving out value for local government's investment
- responding to the diversity of local government and the challenges of the communities we serve
- working closely with the LGA and the other Central Bodies
- responding quickly to new developments and addressing the recommendations from our Quinquennial Review.

summary objectives

Their strategic objectives are derived from the LGA's Performance Partnership themes. For 2004/5, these are:

- improving leadership skills;
- building corporate capacity;
- developing workforce capacity;
- improving service delivery;
- and strengthening community well-being and engagement.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BRIEFING

If you would like to forward any articles, diary dates or requests for information, then please forward to Warren Tonks, Local Government Management Network, 20 Hazel Drive, Wythall, Birmingham B47 5RJ or warrentonks@hotmail.com

You can also access the Networks website at www.lgmn.org.uk