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The National Training Strategy review - survey open until February 28

There has been a pleasing response to the survey with over 1000 completed surveys submitted! The survey will be open for completion until the end of February so if you are not one of the 1000 we still need to hear from you and your councils. Through March the findings will be evaluated with the new strategy hoped for completion during the summer.

The survey can be found on the NTS hub <http://ntshub.org.uk> This includes supporting information on the review, case studies, relevant documents and a general comments/suggestions facility.

With regards the case studies function; If you have examples of good practice around training taking place please let us know either via the hub's 'contacts' function or direct to me and we will upload them to the hub. It is vital to be able to demonstrate the good work we are doing especially when making the case to government for further financial support in the area of training.

The hub can also be accessed through both NALC and SLCC websites. The survey is aimed at anyone in the sector who has an interest in the learning and development needs of parish and town councils. I would urge you to complete the online survey so your views are captured and please promote it through your websites and newsletters.

The survey asks key questions around the following issues and topics:

- Delivery mechanisms and content of training
- Council, Councillor and clerk training
- Qualifications & Career development
- Quality
- Funding sources

NTS focus groups a success!

Approximately 20 county officers and 20 SLCC representatives attended the NTS review focus groups held in December in York and London.

The discussions focussed on 4 key areas:

1. The management of delivery
2. Content and delivery
3. Funding
4. Qualifications and career development

Training Briefing

The findings of the focus groups can be viewed on the NTS hub, these will be evaluated alongside the survey findings to inform the review group of the approach, content and focus of the revised strategy.

Employment guide

Final drafts and artwork for the NTS employment guide entitled “Being a Good Employer – A guide for parish and town councillors” are currently being worked on. Funded by Defra as part of the national Empowerment Programme the guide hopes to offer local councillors an easy to digest booklet similar in approach to the Good Councillors guide. The guide which is being co-written by NALC, SLCC, Local Government Employers (LGE) and county associations and will be launched no later than June.

The National Training Directory

The NTS funded online National Training Directory is in its final stages of testing. The directory (led by the SLCC) once fully functional intends to offer anyone in the country the ability to find out where training is taking place. It will also support the NTS Continuous Professional Development (CPD) scheme.

As training providers you would be offered a log in and password to your own area on the website where you can display the training you are running. For a trial period this will be free although in order for the scheme to be sustained in the long term a membership fee structure may well need to be considered.

If any training partnerships or providers would like more information on how to have a presence on the directory and populate your courses for viewing please contact me to discuss further.

Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA)

CiLCA statistics for December 2009 and January this year are attached in separate documents. As you can see the numbers continue to rise with 1122 holders of the qualification nationally with an average of 14 new passes each month over the last 12 months.

CiLCA training guide

A training guide for CiLCA trainers is still planned. Unfortunately other national projects have had to take priority in recent months but the original working party will re-group shortly to review initial drafts of the intended guide which have been progressing recently. Completion of the guide is hoped to be later this year.

Train the trainer

A 2010 programme of NTS train the trainer events are planned for April and May. London and Midlands venues are currently being considered. Full details including how to book will be announced shortly.

NALC Leadership Academy Programme

Following the success of the 2009 Leadership Academy we are pleased to announce two academies in 2010. ***The NALC Leadership Academy programme*** (supported by the IDeA), is the only national programme of its kind aimed specifically at parish and town (local) councillors.

There are two academies running at Warwick University in 2010, dates being 13 -16 July and 16 -19 November.

The four day residential course is designed to:

- Increase councillors knowledge of personal and organisation leadership theory.
- Develop the understanding of how these can be applied to the work of a local councillor.
- Enable councillors to develop skills in action planning for their communities.
- Broaden perspectives of the role the sector has to play in the wider government empowerment and democracy agendas.
- Encourage networking with other like minded leaders across the sector, learning lessons and sharing best practice.

Full more details and how to book please visit the NALC website www.nalc.gov.uk

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