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08/10/09



National Training Strategy review

The consultation on the review of the National Training Strategy (NTS) will commence soon with an online survey due to go live during October. The NTS hub which will host the website will be ready to launch. It was hoped that this would be at the beginning of October but technical matters have added a slight delay. A further announcement will be made as soon it is ready for access.

The survey will be asking key questions around the following issues and topics which will form the basis for a revised NTS to be published in the spring of 2010:

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

To support the quantitative data collected and to build in the views from National Partners, County Associations and SLCC branches a series of focus groups will be running in parallel with the survey.

The structure will be a national focus group of senior officers and committee members and two county focus groups. One county focus group will be held in the North of England in York on Wednesday 16 December and one in the South, in London on Thursday 17 December

The events will be tightly facilitated by an experienced professional within the sector (TBC). A series of questions and/or topics will be set for discussion based around the sub headings above.

Approximately 10 county officers and 10 SLCC branch representatives will attend each focus group (20 attendees in total). Representatives will be drawn from NALC/SLCC regions on the following structure:

- Northern regions (east and west midlands and above): 2 representatives per region
- Southern regions: 3 representatives per region

NB: Three representatives from South East, South West and the East of England have been arrived at to balance out the larger numbers of counties in the Southern regions.

With regards County Association attendance; Notification of attendance is being channelled through regional lead officers.

Training Briefing

NTS National Training Directory

The much awaited online National Training Directory is almost ready and is presently being trialed by a small number of Counties and stakeholders.

The directory will be launched at the SLCC annual conference in Daventry later this month. The directory will allow training providers the opportunity to display and promote their training online in order that those looking for courses and events have the greatest access to it possible. Through a simple log in password as County Training Partnerships you will be able to manage your own training portal, displaying your events and courses. Links to venue details and other details will be possible.

It is hoped that through this tool the training offer available to the end user (the training attendee) will increase offering a wide range of course nationally.

It will also act as a key mechanism for the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Scheme, offering those completing CPD a direct link to training taking place nationally and an instant way of recording it for the CPD plans and records.

As soon as the product goes live at the end of the month it will be possible to set up access to your own area on the directory. Other sector bodies such as NALC and the SLCC will be including courses and events. Independent training providers will need to apply separately to gain access to the facility.

CiLCA successes!

As many will know CiLCA in England has reached its 1000 pass this summer. This was Sarah Armitage, clerk to Meltham Town Council in Yorkshire.

In addition CiLCA Wales has seen its first pass in Robert Robertson, clerk to Welshpool Town Council. The certificate was adapted for Wales earlier this year and it is testament to the work of One Voice Wales, SLCC, NALC and all those involved in the National Training Strategy that we can announce this achievement.

A more detailed article on both these good news stories will soon be available on LCR online and the SLCC publication 'The Clerk'.

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