



The bi-weekly newsletter from the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership

Issue 5 June 13, 2008

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WELCOME to NWIEP NOW!, the bi-weekly newsletter from the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

We want to hear good news stories and lessons learned from councils in the region that relate to improvement and efficiency or partnerships/collaborations.

Contact us - contactus@nwiep.org.uk

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPOINTED



THE North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership has appointed its new chief executive. Gillian Bishop, pictured left, currently chief executive with Allerdale Borough Council, will take up her post with the NWIEP on September 1, 2008.

She will lead the Partnership, which is hosted by Wigan Council, in supporting north west councils to deliver efficiencies and improvements in line with the National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy.

She commented: "The Partnership aims to ensure that public services are delivered in line with local places to get the best value for money for citizens and I am looking forward to playing a part in making that happen."

Joyce Redfearn, chief executive of Wigan Council, commented: "The NWIEP has a major role to play in supporting councils individually, sub-regionally and regionally to deliver added value to their communities. Gillian will bring a dynamic approach and we are delighted to be welcoming her to the team."

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW YOUR SKILLS

THE NWIEP has arranged for local authorities to provide their people with free Business Improvement Techniques NVQ level 2 training. The on-site training is being delivered by the NAC Group - team that has been providing the NWIEP sponsored Business Process Improvement training to council staff in the region.

It's for people who work in areas that deliver services to the public and/or other internal council departments. NAC recommends that teams of 8 to 12 people attend the training which lasts for seven days over a period of 12 to 16 weeks.

Ideally, teams should consist of two to three process specialists - the people who work within the process to be studied so they can give a detailed understanding of the 'as is' situation, two to three people who are either suppliers or customers to provide an internal perspective of how they each view the other and two to three 'challengers' who can view the process without any pre-conceived ideas and can impartially challenge the status quo.

For further information, email rosemary.ramirez@tameside.gov.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON CASE STUDIES

THE next What's in it for us? event delivered by the Transformation Programme will be shining the spotlight on case studies. A raft of case studies from across the region are now being prepared and will be showcased at the event to be held in September.

The case studies will feature people from the sub-regions who have 'won the t-shirt' and experienced the highs and lows of delivering shared services and collaborative projects.

The subject matter will be extremely varied and should provide attendees with a useful insight into how their colleagues have successfully delivered the projects. If you are aware of some good examples of shared service projects in your sub-region let us know by contacting Emily Turner on 0161 342 3982 or email emily.turner@tameside.gov.uk

Contact, Emily, too, if you wish to register for the event.

NEW ERA DAWNS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE



THE NWIEP is launching a climate change programme for the region on July 1.

The programme, managed by NWDA and NWRA and funded by the NWIEP, will improve the ability of north west councils to make carbon reductions from their own estate, thereby demonstrating leadership and accountability, and their communities including residential and commercial properties.

The climate change programme will also provide authorities with increased skills and knowledge, bespoke consultancy support and increased opportunities for exchange of ideas and information with other authorities across the region.

The programme will also link in with the LGIU local authority carbon trading project.

The launch will take place at the Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, Wigan and starts at 10am.

To register for the event, [clickhere](#)

CARRY ON COLLABORATING

A DECISION has been taken to cancel the Carry On Collaborating event which was to be held in Cumbria next Friday, June 20.

The event aimed chiefly at Members and chief executives, is designed to reveal how collaborative activity in and across the sub-regions can boost improvement and efficiency.

It will now be held at a later date. The NWIEP will advertise the new date, when it has been agreed, on its website and through NWIEP Now!

The Merseyside and Cheshire Carry On Collaborating roadshows are still being held.

To register for either event, Merseyside is being held on June 27 and Cheshire on July 18, please send an email to emily.turner@tameside.gov.uk

FRESH LOOK AT GATEWAY REVIEWS

THE AGMA project review group wants to know whether there is mileage in establishing a proper framework to deliver Gateway Reviews among the Greater Manchester councils.

It's already got support from 4Ps and believes that a peer network of reviewers for the Gateway Reviews could be the answer.

Existing trained reviewers have already been contacted to establish levels of interest and a project approach has been defined and a draft Brief, PID and Plan are under construction.

The process, so far, is already being supported by the NWIEP, as well as Blackpool, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, and Tameside.

Anyone interested in joining this project or in finding out more should contact Russell Starkie (Project Manager) on 0161 253 5583.

4Ps are also willing to deliver Gateway Review training in the north west rather than participants having to travel to the 4Ps training base in London. They will do so should sufficient numbers of people register their interest in the training. The NWIEP is co-ordinating levels of interest. Please email rosemary.ramirez@tameside.gov.uk



AWARDS EVENT FOR BPI SUCCESSES

THE NWIEP will be giving out the gongs to local authority officers in August.

An event will be held on August 28 aimed at those people who have undergone the Business Process Improvement training that has been supported by the NWIEP.

Around 200 people will receive their NVQ certificates for successful completion of the training. In addition, the day will give them an opportunity to discuss how they can progress their training and widen its delivery across local authorities in the region.

Participants will be asked 'how was it for you?', what, if anything, could have been different, how has anything they applied the training and what happens next?

Further information about the event will be posted on the NWIEP website and updates will appear in NWIEP Now!

REMINDER TO MAKE A DATE WITH CUPID

THE Transformation Programme team has sent out a reminder to local authority contacts who wish to get up close and personal with the collaborative database CUPID.

The database is now live and has already been populated with baseline data from Cumbria, Merseyside and Lancashire. The programme team has also written to one named person in each authority asking them to ensure that their authorities' projects are uploaded

However, there may still be information that needs to be included on CUPID. So for anyone based in Cumbria, Merseyside or Lancashire, it is worth checking that we have put in all that we need to. If you believe you should have your authority's contact and we haven't been in touch, or you would simply like to know who your authority's contact is then please contact Emily Turner on 0161 342 3982 or email emily.turner@tameside.gov.uk

DIVE INTO THE LEARNING POOL

A LEARNING exchange company, set up for the public sector, is offering free procurement training to budget holders and non-procurement specialists.

The Learning Pool's Passport to Procurement improves understanding of procurement and shows how effective, sustainable procurement can contribute to efficiency targets and improved service delivery.

The Passport to Procurement course is free, for a year, to all council officers in England.

It gives participants a basic level of understanding of procurement, an understanding of the legal framework behind it and an insight into best practice procurement in the public sector.

Jane Waring, head of procurement at Norfolk County Council and former chair of the National Training User Group that developed the course said: "There is a great demand for basic procurement training for budget holders across local government and this course aims to fill this need."

For further information about the course email elarning@learningpool.com or call on 0845 1741101.

