

London Anchor Institutions' Network (LAIN)
Steering Committee meeting: 06 June 2023
Paper: Programme updates

Communications

In keeping with the desire to tell the story more effectively and consistently about what we are achieving collectively, a request was made in February that contacts of all relevant comms colleagues be provided to the LAIN programme team to join the comms network.

Thank you to Steering Committee members for ensuring link up with your respective organisation's communications leads. A virtual Communications Champions group is being established - and will maximise opportunities for cross promotion of news, events and stories across the network.

In response to the emphasis members placed on communicating the value and impact of anchor ways of working both internally and externally, we have:

- Developed a **communications toolkit** for members with practical assets including new logos, social media graphics and pre-prepared content, to support internal and external communications. See attached. The intention is to issue this to all Communications Champions.
 - If you have any feedback on this, please let us know.
- Produced more **impact videos** and published all of them on our [website's gallery](#) to bring the network's achievements to life using real stories told in real voices. These are available for you to use in your internal and external comms. Further videos are planned with filming to take place this summer.
 - If you have a story you would like us to feature, please let us know.
- Created a new LAIN **LinkedIn page** which we will launch shortly to post regular news, updates, blogs and resources as well as comment on current affairs relevant to our work.
 - Please subscribe and share content across your own channels too.
- Continued to issue regular editions of our **newsletter** featuring [new blogs every month](#), including recent ones on disability in the workplace from the GLA's People Function, employment for prison leavers from Thames Water and mentoring for global majority staff from London Higher.
 - If you would like to contribute a guest blog, please let us know. We can help to draft these.
- Presented at **member events**, including an NHS anchors lunch and learn session in May and an NHS NEDs and Chairs meeting in March.
 - If you would like us to speak at similar events in the future, please let us know.

- Produced a **slide pack** that members can use internally to introduce LAIN and advocate for greater involvement. Please see attached.

In response to discussions at the last Steering Committee meeting, specific references have been made in these products to the business case for us shifting practice in these ways.

Membership

Capital City College Group – which includes City and Islington College, Westminster Kingsway College and the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London – has joined LAIN alongside recent joiner Newham College. Both are significant employers in their own right, as well as training thousands of students each year, and are committed to diversity and environmental sustainability.

Since joining the network, Newham College has become involved with the Green New Deal working group, whilst Capital City College Group has joined the Hiring and Skills Working Group.

London Higher has also formally joined LAIN, having already been engaging in various working groups. London Higher is the membership organisation for universities and higher education colleges across the capital, representing the full diversity of London's higher education sector.

Events

In response to feedback from the survey following the conference, the LAIN team has pulled together a framework of events that members may benefit from and wish to take part in. This looks to respond to members' desire to connect with colleagues across organisations, access more peer-to-peer support and joint problem solving, and attend expert-led masterclasses that help them develop their own practice on key topics.

As part of this, the team have proposed open networking/drinks sessions for Steering Committee members, and welcome feedback on appetite for this, and whether it would be more convenient for these to be held straight after Steering Committee meetings or as stand-alone events with different members hosting and perhaps offering some insight into their respective organisations.

Resources

On 7 March, an e-training course that was developed to support members to procure from more small and diverse businesses was shared with Steering Committee members with a request from LAIN Co-Chairs that the course be uploaded onto organisations' own Learning Management Systems (LMS).

To date, the LAIN team has been made aware that Transport for London, London Fire Brigade, the Metropolitan Police and GLA have all successfully uploaded these modules onto their LMS, with NHS adoption in process. Thank you to those Steering Committee members and senior leaders within their organisations who have been championing this via

internal comms and requesting that all junior staff who purchase goods and services complete the course. The LAIN team can provide draft text to help others to do the same.

Reporting

As previously discussed, adopting shared metrics and accountability is essential in demonstrating and understanding the collective impact of the network.

Simplified metrics have now been tested with the working groups and agreed in most cases. Based on feedback from members we have settled on the principle of twice annual reporting, at mid-year and year end (FY), using a light-touch Microsoft form to facilitate easy information collection and collation. We are proposing to commission these updates via Steering Committee members, copying in relevant working group members so that – where relevant – you can sign these off before submission.

Members of the procurement working group have been asked to pilot the new reporting format method, contributing to a complete picture of delivery and impact over FY 2022/23, with other groups to follow at the mid-year point.

An aggregate picture of the results from this reporting will be shared with Steering Committee members following each reporting cycle.

It is proposed that there is a substantive item on LAIN at the London Partnership Board meeting (co-chaired by the Mayor) in late October (exact date TBC). Mid-year reporting should hopefully give us a good set of information to share at that meeting.

Childcare

Following appetite from the Steering Committee in February to explore opportunities for LAIN to tackle childcare issues affecting (primarily) women's participation in the labour market, a task and finish group has been established involving representatives nominated via Steering Committee members.

The group includes representatives from Thames Water, King's College London, Newham College, Camden Council, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nuffield Trust, GLA and Birkbeck, University of London, collectively bringing a range of relevant expertise and insights spanning policy, research, HR, equality, diversity and inclusion. The group has met twice to consider issues around childcare, existing good practice and future opportunities, and is on track to share recommendations with the Steering Committee this summer with a view to decision-making on proposed opportunities in September's meeting.

To support the group's activities and inform a baseline view of existing support across the network for both (prospective and existing) employees and the early years sector, the LAIN team has also engaged more widely with network members including the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, NHS, Transport for London, University of London and London City Airport.

Steering Committee members are asked to:

- Report back on adoption of procurement e-training within your organisations, including number of officers completing the course to date

- Confirm support for the new reporting process or provide any feedback on the experience of the pilot undertaken with the procurement working group
- Provide feedback on in-person networking events for Steering Committee members and let the LAIN team know if your organisation would like to host a future networking session
- Get in touch with the LAIN team following the meeting about any communications opportunities that you would like to take up (e.g. providing speakers for internal events, drafting guest blogs, suggesting video ideas etc.)