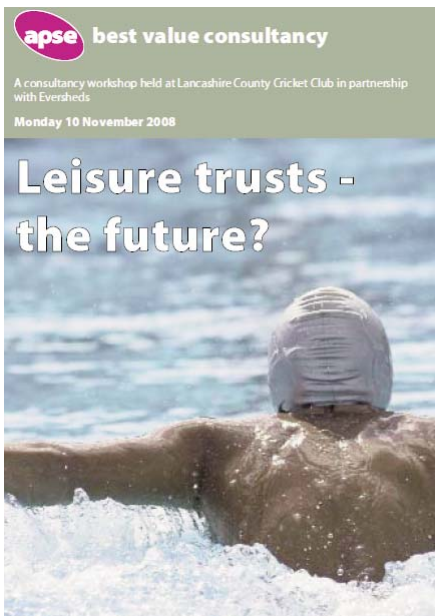


news update

Welcome to the fifteenth edition of the best value consultancy news update, a quarterly news sheet to keep clients and associate consultants informed of what we are undertaking and also our future projects.

Leisure trusts – the future? Consultancy workshop Monday 10th November 2008

As many authorities with established leisure trusts are considering options for the future, best value consultancy and Evershed's are holding a consultancy workshop to set out and examine some key issues arising from developments in case law and thinking.



The workshop will be of relevance to managers of trusts, in house services and strategic decision makers and will be led by APSE's best value consultancy with legal input from Eversheds which is one of the UK's leading legal practices.

The workshop will be held on Monday 10th November 2008 at the Lancashire County Cricket club and will feature Andy Mudd ASPE principal consultant, Trevor Hawkins best value consultant, who has 22 years of experience as a local government officer and

considerable experience in the evaluation of Leisure Trusts, Judith Barnes a partner at Eversheds. Judith has advised on options appraisals for the future management of leisure services (several i.e. North Lincolnshire in conjunction with APSE) and has established numerous charities and trusts and Bridgette Wilcox a partner at Eversheds. Bridgette has a growing practice on state aids acting for the firm's national public sector client base. She is regularly involved in notifications and the European Commission and advises on this area.

Places are filling up fast visit <http://www.apse.org.uk/consultancy.html> and click on the BVC workshop link for a booking form.

Value for money review hits the headlines

Where does an authority start to make an assessment of services and a judgement on competitiveness and value for money? APSE best value consultancy and Preston city council aimed to address this by boosting members' skills and enabling them to carry out an authority-wide value for money assessment.

The process ensures that members have the tools to make objective decisions without disappearing under a mountain of reports and paperwork. The toolkit has been developed with Preston and has been enthusiastically supported by both officers and members. Over 20 areas of council administration have been defined and objectively graded to provide a forward plan for individual efficiency reviews.

The local government associations first online magazine said 'The toolkit is a practical way for councillors across

the country to be confident that they are in touch with what's happening'.

For the full article visit

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=1029926

Free School Meals for all?

APSE best value consultancy have recently been successful in tendering a consultancy project establishing the feasibility of free school meals, including breakfast clubs and free fruit, for all primary school children in Liverpool. The Liverpool City Council 'Transforming School Food Strategy 2008-2011' includes objectives and actions to increase the take-up of school meals, which varies across the city. The purpose of the project is:

To investigate options for providing free or subsidised school food within school settings, for primary aged children, (4 years – 11 years of age) through school meals.

To investigate the funding options, taking into account the Liverpool context such as the range of school food providers, and the practicalities and impact offering additional food services in schools.

To propose a preferred method of providing free or subsidised school food within school settings for primary aged children and consult with stakeholders on this option.

The final report is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008.

Recent announcements by central government state all primary school pupils will be offered free school meals in pilot schemes in two areas of England. In another area means testing for free meals will be altered so that more pupils qualify. None of these areas have yet been determined which



means this project should place Liverpool in a strong position to be included within the pilots.

The government education authorities and primary care trusts will share the £40m cost. A number of areas have already tried a variety of similar ideas. Unions have pushed for universal entitlement, with a cost estimated at £1bn a year.

For further information on this article please contact Damian Walshe, Senior Consultant dwalshe@apse.org.uk

Interim Management: Given it any thought? Know someone who would be good at it?

Interim Solutions is firmly established as a supplier of interims to local government.

All our associates have access to all of apse's membership resources including free training and free attendance at seminars and advisory groups.

We are looking for experienced managers at all levels in all services to join us as associates in our network of Interim Managers.

Interim managers can provide short, medium or longer term support, they have the experienced managerial resources when needed, providing solutions at short notice due to reorganisation, staff absence or recruitment difficulties.

We are sending out this invitation to our entire network of managers. If you are interested please get in touch or pass it on to colleagues and former colleagues who you think might be keen to serve in this capacity.

If you share apse's values and have the expertise and experience to excel as an interim manager, email us your CV and we will contact you for an informal



chat at a suitable time for you, or check out our website. To see what you could be attending for free as an apse associate please check out the apse events timetable below:

October

20 Marketing your service area Perth, contact Wai Lee on 0161 772 1810

21 Wales housing and building maintenance advisory group and benchmarking group, Powys, contact Keisha Adair on 0161 772 1810

29 Transport and vehicle maintenance advisory and benchmarking group. Manchester, contact Steven Keefe 0161 772 1810

November

5 Workforce strategy and employee relations advisory group. Manchester Town Hall, contact Steven Keefe on 0161 772 1810

6 Wales environmental services and highways advisory group. Monmouthshire County Council. Contact Keisha Adair on 0161 772 1810

6-7 Housing and building services seminar, Sheffield, contact Steven Keefe on 0161 772 1810

10 Best value consultancy workshop Lancashire County Cricket Club, contact Emma Barrow on 0161 772 1810

11 Marketing your service area training. Leeds, contact Wai Lee on 0161 772 1810

13 Leadership - Managing change training, Belfast, contact Wai Lee on 0161 772 1810

14 Highways advisory group and PN Working group, Manchester, contact Keisha Adair on 0161 772 1810

18 Psychometric Testing, Rugby, contact Wai Lee on 0161 772 1810

24 CDM Regulation Master Class, Edinburgh, Wai Lee on 0161 772 1810

25 Psychometric testing, Glasgow., Wai Lee on 0161 772 1810

28 Leadership - The Manager as Team Leader training Birmingham contact Wai Lee on 0161 772 1810

December

1 Psychometric testing, Manchester,

contact Wai Lee 0161 772 1810

4-5 Performance Networks Seminar, Blackpool contact Keisha Adair 0161 772 1810

9 Negotiation Skills, Bath, contact Wai Lee, 0161 772 1810

9 Community, safety and security advisory group, Manchester, contact Keisha Adair 0161 772 1810

For further information on becoming an interim please contact Emma Barrow, Client Coordination Officer ebarrow@apse.org.uk

Service Level Agreements's

Best value consultancy is providing assistance with the creation of Service Level Agreements (SLA) regulating the provision of a number of services to be shared between new Councils following reorganisation.

Effective SLAs are of critical significance to the future provision of the services concerned.

APSE will create a generic SLA based on an agreed set of objectives that are capable of application to each service area. These will then be tailored to meet individual service requirements.

Service level agreements help assist in maintaining services in the run up to reorganisation but also to help to ensure that knowledge and expertise built up over years is not lost during the organisation process. Authorities are concerned to know that the services they are proud to provide are preserved in the new authority.

To find out more about how the consultancy can help you, contact:

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Website:

www.apse.org.uk/consultancy.html
www.apse.org.uk/interim.asp