**MEETING OF THE ENGLAND COMMITTEE**

**15th NOVEMBER 2022**

**Microsoft Teams**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT: IN ATTENDANCE:**

John Mothersole Chair Phil Chamberlain England Director

Kevin Bone Member Jon Eastwood Deputy Director, England

Ray Coyle Member Mark Purvis Deputy Director, England

Rosie Ginday Member Sophy Proctor Senior Head of Funding

Maggie Jones Member Katie Crystal Senior Governance Officer

Tarn Lamb Members (minutes)

**FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:**

Scott Hignett Head of Funding, Strategic Programmes

Alex Hayes Head of Funding, Strategic Programmes

Claire Bridgehouse Funding Manager

Gill Hart Funding Manager

Adam Duffin Finance Business Partner

Lorraine Joyce Funding Manager

John Jatto Funding Officer

Tracey Bennett Funding Officer

Stella Brown Funding Officer

Susan Connor Funding Manager

Angela Ford Former Programme Manager, HeadStart

Vic Sterling Former Programme Lead, Aging Better

1. **COMMITTEE INFORMAL CATCH UP** 
   1. The Committee held a closed session for members only.

*ESMT and the Senior Governance Officer joined the meeting.*

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
   1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all.
   2. Apologies were received from Emma Corrigan.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
   1. Ray Coyle declared an interest in the extension to the service level agreement with Access, the Foundation for Social Investment. Ray noted that he is working with the organisation, in a personal capacity, on a different project.
   2. The Chair noted that the interest in nonpecuniary as there is no financial gain. The interest was deemed to be non-disqualifying.
3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 11TH OF OCTOBER.** 
   1. The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as an accurate record.
4. **MATTERS ARISING** 
   1. The action log was reviewed and updated.
   2. The Chair noted that a Sub-group of the Board is being developed to work more closely on the strategy renewal. Input from the England Committee strategic day has also been incorporated into the ongoing work of the strategy renewal.
   3. Phil informed the Committee that the strategy renewal deep-dive sessions have been very valuable. Considerations from the deep dives are now being reflected on within the planning and thinking of various teams.
5. **STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES “LESSONS LEARNED”**

*Scott Hignett, Alex Hayes, Claire Bridgehouse and Gill Hart joined the meeting.*

* 1. Sophy introduced the session which would focus on the learning from the strategic programmes.

**A Better Start**

* 1. Gill provided the Committee with an overview of learning from A Better Start. The programme has funding remaining for the next 2.5 years. The legacy will involve service level programmes, including language programmes over eight local authority areas.
  2. A Better Start has contributed to systems change through educating and training the workforce. It was noted that increased consideration for the youngest children is now embedded in local systems. To further influence change, sites are sharing learning through conferences, workforce development, podcasts and social media. The Committee recommended that a special briefing on the learning be developed to further capture learning.
  3. A Better Start sites have now started to explore sustainability plans for when TNLCF funding ends.

**HeadStart**

* 1. Scott Hignett provided the Committee with an overview of the learning from HeadStart. The programme was the first of its kind across a city region and heard from almost 40,000 young people regarding their mental health in its first year. The programme influenced the creation of an additional programme called #BeeWell, of which 95 percent of schools in Manchester have signed up for.
  2. The learning from HeadStart has had an impact locally on the implementation of the Government’s mental health support teams in schools’ initiative. The initiative is being rolled out nationally over time as part of the Government’s response to the Green Paper on transforming children and young people’s mental health.

**Talent Match**

* 1. Scott Hignett informed the Committee that Talent Match has become a beacon of hope for young people. Twenty percent of participants moved into employment and 80 percent moved closer to the labour market.
  2. The hard work of the partnership organisations and the Talent Match programme has meant that it is now recognised as one of the promising practices in Europe in the field of youth employment by the European Commission – the only programme/project from the UK to achieve this recognition.

**Fulfilling Lives**

* 1. Laura Furness provided an overview of the learning from Fulfilling Lives, noting that since 2014, the Fulfilling Lives programme has supported nearly 4,000 people with experience of multiple disadvantage.
  2. After just a year with Fulfilling Lives, participants had improved their self-reliance and independence and were engaging better with services. The number of people who were homeless and rough sleeping reduced and people were less likely to use crisis services and to be involved in the criminal justice system.
  3. The programme evaluation demonstrated that by March 2021, of 3,034 closed cases: 41% had left Fulfilling Lives for positive reasons: 27% no longer needed support.

*Angela Ford and Vic Sterling joined the meeting.*

* 1. Angela and Vic were introduced to the Committee.
  2. Angela informed the Committee that she had worked with 134 school involved in HeadStart Kent. A total of 553 schools had benefitted from the programme in Kent overall. One of the significant successes of the programme was how it brought systems such as schools, communities, and health care together. Angela noted that she is currently being funded to ensure that the learning of the programmes is embedded and sustained. A lot of the work has been sustained in Kent and this can be largely attributed to the co-produced model that was developed with young people.
  3. Vic addressed the Committee, noting that she had previously worked as a Programme Lead for Aging Better in Sheffield. The programme had delivered an age friendly micro grant project as well as a campaign called ‘100 Voices’ which focused on aging in Sheffield. This work is now embedded in the work of the local Council, leading to systems change.
  4. Aging Better Sheffield also led on a piece of work which brought together learning on co-production. The current focus is on disseminating the resulting toolkit.
  5. The Committee thanked Angela and Vic for their time and noted the impactful evidence of change. The members discussed the need to ensure that the learning from the strategic programmes is embedded in the operation of the Fund.
  6. As it was Laura Furness’ last meeting with the England Committee, the members thanked her for her contribution and dedication to her work. The Committee wished Laura the very best in the next stage of her career.

*Scott Hignett, Alex Hayes, Claire Bridgehouse, Gill Hart Angela Ford and Vic Sterling left the meeting.*

1. **ENGLAND UPDATE** 
   1. Phil provided the Committee with an update on the England Portfolio. Both himself and Emma had attended several external events and continued work on the Strategy Renewal deep dives.
   2. The Chair provided an update on the Fund’s approach to the cost-of-living crisis. The Fund has stated its intention to continue to work with communities to alleviate the impacts of the crisis. Grant variations related to cost-of-living have been increased from 10 percent to 25 percent until March of 2023. Applications for grant variations have begun to increase and this upward trend is expected to continue. It was noted that the Fund has been clear about its ability to fund core costs, however, wages can only be funded for those delivering Fund programmes.
2. **BLACK & MINORITISED COMMUNITIES RING FENCED FUNDING PROPOSAL UPDATE**
   1. Phil provided the Committee with an update on the Black & Minoritised Communities ring fenced funding proposal. The members were provided with an overview of the proposed way forward for delivering the funds. The members of the Committee were asked to provide a steer.
   2. The Minoritised Communities ring fenced funding proposal involves a small grants fund for minoritised groups. The small grants fund would be administered by TNLCF and would aim to work in partnership with other organisations that have a greater reach into the relevant grassroots sector. It was acknowledged that this way of working would allow the Fund to increase its reach into these areas.
   3. The Committee noted that papers of such importance should be circulated well in advance of meetings. The Committee requested further information regarding why the original proposal for the Phoenix Way could not be taken forward. The executive noted that the decision made regarding the Phoenix Way was to ringfence the funds, not confirm the delivery model. The Committee was assured that the proposal is the best way forward for working in partnership and improving the Fund’s internal systems and expertise.

*Tarn left the meeting due to a conflict in schedule (15:42).*

* 1. The Committee were supportive of the proposed way forward and thanked the executive for their work on developing the proposal.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** 
   1. Being that there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 15:55.

**SIGNED: DATE: 17/01/2023**

**John Mothersole**

**CHAIR**