

Meeting: Legal Services Board

Date: 26 April 2022

Item: Paper (22) 24

Title: Annual Conference Update

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Status: Official

Introduction

1. This paper updates the Board on the inaugural annual conference for the legal services sector. It sets out the proposed theme and outline for the event and the planned approach to delivering a successful conference.

Recommendation

2. The Board is invited to
 - **Discuss and agree** the theme for the annual conference
 - **Discuss and agree** the proposed plans and approach to the annual conference.

Timing

3. The conference will provisionally take place in Q3 of 2022/23 as outlined in our current Business Plan.

Background

4. At its October 2021 meeting, the Board agreed to host a conference and summit event in 2022/23, with the overall aims being to:
 - Maintain momentum in the sector-wide mission to deliver the ambitions set out in the strategy.
 - Promote collaboration and leadership and promote positive examples of good practice to encourage others to play their part in tackling the sector's challenges.
5. The Board leads for communications and engagement have provided advice to the Executive, which has helped shape the proposals presented here for the Board to consider.

Proposal

6. We plan to hold a diversity-themed conference focused on addressing key issues and challenges facing the legal services sector. Our proposed title is: 'A diverse public deserves a strong, ethical and diverse profession'.
7. We plan to hold the event in central London and propose that the LSB Chair chairs it.

Structure of the event

8. We explored options for an in-person summit similar to the virtual senior event we held in September 2020. For logistical reasons and to achieve value for money, we propose having a single conference rather than holding a separate summit and conference. This will ensure discussions occur at the conference, not outside it, and do not exclude anyone.
9. We propose bringing just conference speakers and panellists together for a breakfast gathering on the morning of the conference. This will allow them to meet, exchange ideas and consider how we get the most out of the day.
10. We propose structuring the conference around a series of keynote speeches and panel sessions, with plenty of time for Q+A and discussion, focusing on identifying areas of work and collaboration to make progress on the Reshaping Legal Services strategy.
11. We plan to invite delegates to a social gathering at the end of the conference if we can secure sponsorship for it.
12. The broad draft outline for the day is as follows:

Time	Session
08.15 – 09.30	Breakfast gathering - LSB Board, conference speakers and panellists
08.30 – 09.30	Registration, coffee, meet and greet
09.45 – 10.00	Welcome a) Start with a 2-3 minute video of consumer voices or representative groups b) Introduction from the LSB Chair
10.00 – 10.30	Ministerial speaker and discussion
10.30 – 12.00	Keynotes, panel discussions
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 16.00	Keynotes, panel discussions, including a break
16.00 – 16.30	Closing remarks from the LSB Chair, Q+A
16.30	Social function (if sponsored)

Speakers and content

13. We plan to establish an external sounding board to help shape the conference.
14. We will identify speakers and panellists who will help stimulate discussion, encourage attendance and inspire collaboration and action. Topics we are exploring include:
 - Diversity in the profession – research on what is working and what is not
 - Counter-inclusive practices
 - Consumer segmentation research
 - AI and diversity
 - Building public trust in the legal services profession
 - Broadening access to the profession
 - Developing future leaders in the profession
15. We hope to secure a ministerial speaker and will confirm the date for the event as soon as possible. We are currently aiming to hold the event in October 2022.
16. We plan for one of the keynote speeches to involve announcing progress on a collaborative initiative or area of work linked to EDI, if possible. We are developing plans for this.
17. We will ensure the day is informed by public insights and voices through a video at the start and then by sharing consumer research and insights throughout.

Conference delegates

18. We will send targeted and personalised invitations to people with a role in addressing the challenges set out in our strategy for the legal services sector – Reshaping Legal Services. This includes the regulators, lawyers and legal services professionals, the judiciary, consumer groups, NGOs, the third sector, politicians, academics, and researchers. As well as inviting new audiences, we will ask those who have been to previous events, addressed the Board, and contributed to the development of our strategy.
19. We also plan to live stream the conference to increase participation and support inclusion.

Next steps

20. We plan to keep the Board updated through the CEO report and Board papers. We will also continue to consult the Board leads for communications and engagement.

Risks and mitigations	
Financial:	The Board has now agreed to the LSB's business plan and budget for 2022/23 following a public consultation, including our plan to hold an annual conference.
Legal:	N/A
Communications and engagement:	A communications and engagement plan has been developed to support the event.
Equality and diversity:	Equality and diversity are central to the theme of the event and all our planning. We will ensure the event is accessible.
Resource:	Resources have been allocated within the budget for 2022/23.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol)		
Para ref	Fol exemption and summary	Expires
N/a	N/a	N/a