

Building SYMCA's analysis and insight capacity and capability

ASRC verbal update

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The risk

- New corporate risk added last round: due to SYMCA's capacity and capability in the analysis and insight space, there is a risk that we are unable to gain proportionate and effective strategic insights to inform policy decisions and develop business cases or bids.
- We are developing a plan to address this. Our Director of Insight will bring a paper to November ASRC. We will provide a verbal update today.
- Welcome your steers today on what aspects of this you are most interested in.

Addressing the risk

- Hire of new Director of Insight on secondment from civil service.
- Work programme in development, which is reducing the residual risk score.
- Three elements of this already in train:
 1. A work programme to further business case quality across SYMCA and our LAs, including working with MHCLG and HM Treasury (more info in Annex).
 2. Working across SYMCA, LAs and partners such as South Yorkshire Police to explore how we can further develop an insight-led, collaborative approach to evidence and bid development across our organisations and priorities.
 3. Identifying what SYMCA's insight function will need to look like under single settlement.

Annex: SYMCA and LA business cases L&D with MHCLG and HMT

Overall: focus on strategic, economic and management cases; pragmatic, local focus; design jointly	
Phase 1: L&D training sessions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refresher business case training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The questions business cases are seeking to answer • What good business cases look like – especially strategic, economic, management case • How to approach drafting – including the golden thread and the importance of the strategic narrative aligning to the objectives of the funding 2. Theories of change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they can be used to link strategic, economic and management cases to objectives and their role in appraisal and evaluation. 3. Beyond BCR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place-based analysis, wellbeing analysis, displacement and the role of the strategic case in vfm
Phase 2: more advanced – roundtables	<p>Likely to cover, in roundtable discussion format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the Green Book to make the case for local and national priorities • Giving confidence in our ability to deliver • What government is looking for in terms of evaluation
Phase 3: sharing the learning	<p>Sharing our exemplars of strategic, economic and management cases which are rigorous and demonstrate best practice in the above.</p>