Development Networks
Evaluation Findings

Sharing Event 11 September 2017
The National Archives
Networks
Agenda

• Headline findings
• Methodology
• Development networks
• Lessons learned
• Recommendations
Headline findings

• 10 networks funded throughout England (all unique and at different stages)
• Over £240K invested (includes TNA and match funding)
• Only 1 network no longer in operation
• One network has become a new organisation (Archives West Midlands)
• Enabled archive services to look beyond their own day to day operations
• Helped to raise the profile of services among senior council leaders
• Allowed individual archive services to tackle big challenges
• Administration is a key area of concern among network members
• Services have more power and authority when working collectively
Methodology

The research was undertaken over a four stage process.

1. Initiation
2. Consultation
3. Compilation
4. Dissemination
Development Networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Geographic remit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archives First</td>
<td>East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands Regional Archives Council</td>
<td>East</td>
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<tr>
<td>East of England Regional Archive Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>The South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)</td>
<td>East</td>
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<td>London Archives Partnership</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives for Yorkshire</td>
<td>North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership (GMALSP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Archives Partnership</td>
<td>North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives West Midlands</td>
<td>West</td>
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<tr>
<td>South West Fed</td>
<td>West</td>
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</tbody>
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Membership

Domains represented across networks

- Archive Services: 35
- Museums: 8
- Libraries: 10
- Local studies: 22
- User groups: 9
- Universities: 13
- Local Authority services: 27
- Independent archives: 11
- Other (please specify): 3
Investment

Total investment

- TNA: 58%
- Network: 42%
- Match: In-kind total: 19%
- Match: cash total: 23%
Survey and interview findings
Development Opportunities

To what extent do you believe the network has identified the following development opportunities?

- Ways to improve efficiency
- Ways to maximise existing assets, including collections, staff expertise, digital preservation, conservation facilities
- Maintenance of local identities alongside economies of scale
- Developing service standards to meet the Archive Service Accreditation standard
- Income generation, fundraising or inward investment
- Digital infrastructure and service delivery

- Don’t know
- A lot
- A little
- Not at all
### Priority areas of activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yes it's a priority</th>
<th>No it's not a priority</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital preservation</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision of online access</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digitisation of archive collections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cataloguing to develop access</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income generation (including online retail)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity (collection development and community engagement)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audience development</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Establishing a governance structure</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shared services</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpretation</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centralised storage of records and collections</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
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</table>
Effective Networks

What in your opinion are the most important factors in ensuring a network is working effectively? Weighted Average

- Having a clear mission and purpose
- Having a clear plan for activity
- Knowing the members in the network
- Having senior level representation/support
- Achieving targets (on projects)
- Trusting other members in the network
- Having a robust governance structure
- Securing funds
- Managing time effectively
- Having external facilitation support
- Public awareness and support
Recommendations for TNA

• Continue supporting networks
• A healthy risk appetite
• Adopt a self-selection approach
• Continue match funding
• Enable the sharing of ideas
• Acknowledge Archives Accreditation
• Support leadership, governance and management and working with consultants
Stages of a Network

1. Stage 1: Talking shop
2. Stage 2: Get serious
3. Stage 3: Get on with it
4. Stage 4: Review, communicate and repeat

Culture Runner
Top tips for an effective network

1. Agree on a clear purpose
2. Establish priorities
3. Communicate and advocate
4. Get active – do stuff
5. Develop a governance and management framework