



## Annual Report to AGM, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

The 2017 AGM was held on 7<sup>th</sup> April at the Institute of Electrical Engineers in London, immediately before the inaugural meeting of the UCISA London Group, sponsored by LMN. The decision to sponsor the London Group was reported at the 2017 AGM and this has been the primary focus of activity by LMN, overseen by a Steering Group and monitored by the LMN Board.

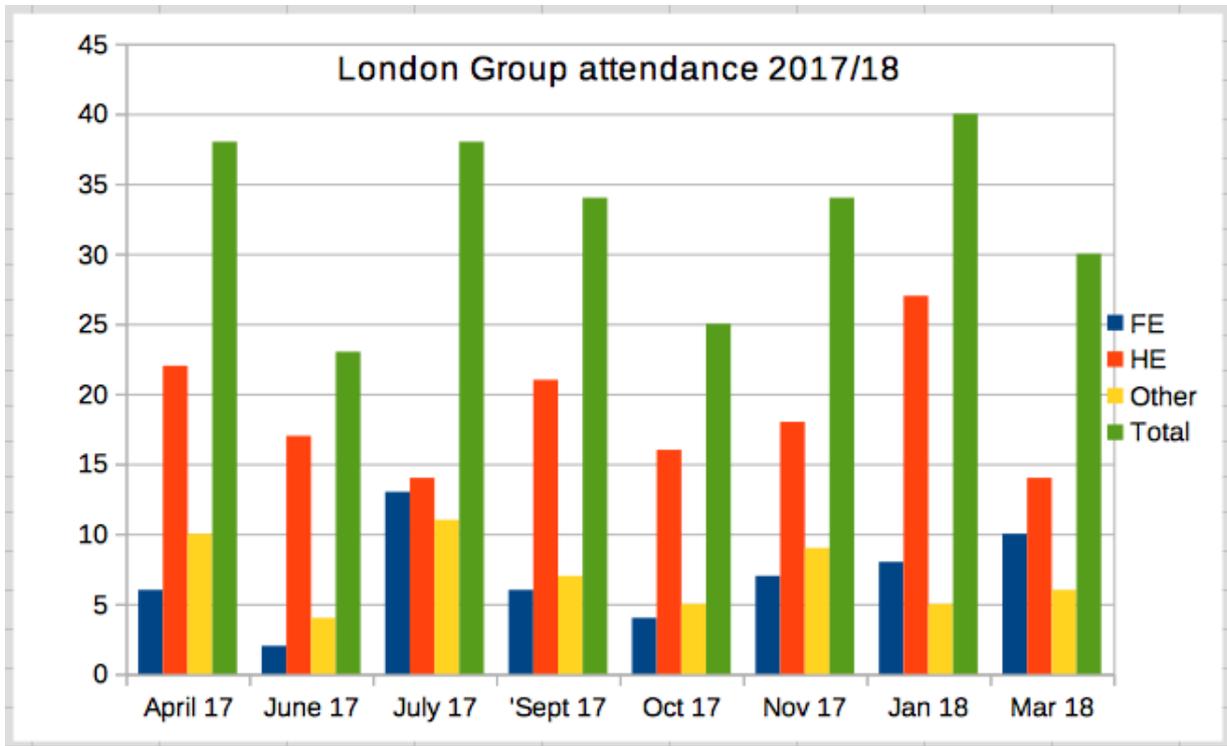
The London Group met six times in 2017: April; June; July; September; October; and November. It has already met twice in 2018: January and March; with further meetings today (following the AGM); June; September; and November.

Attendance at the meetings has been good, with a wide range of topics covered. Full details of the meetings are held on the LMN and UCISA web sites. Some examples of the topics include:

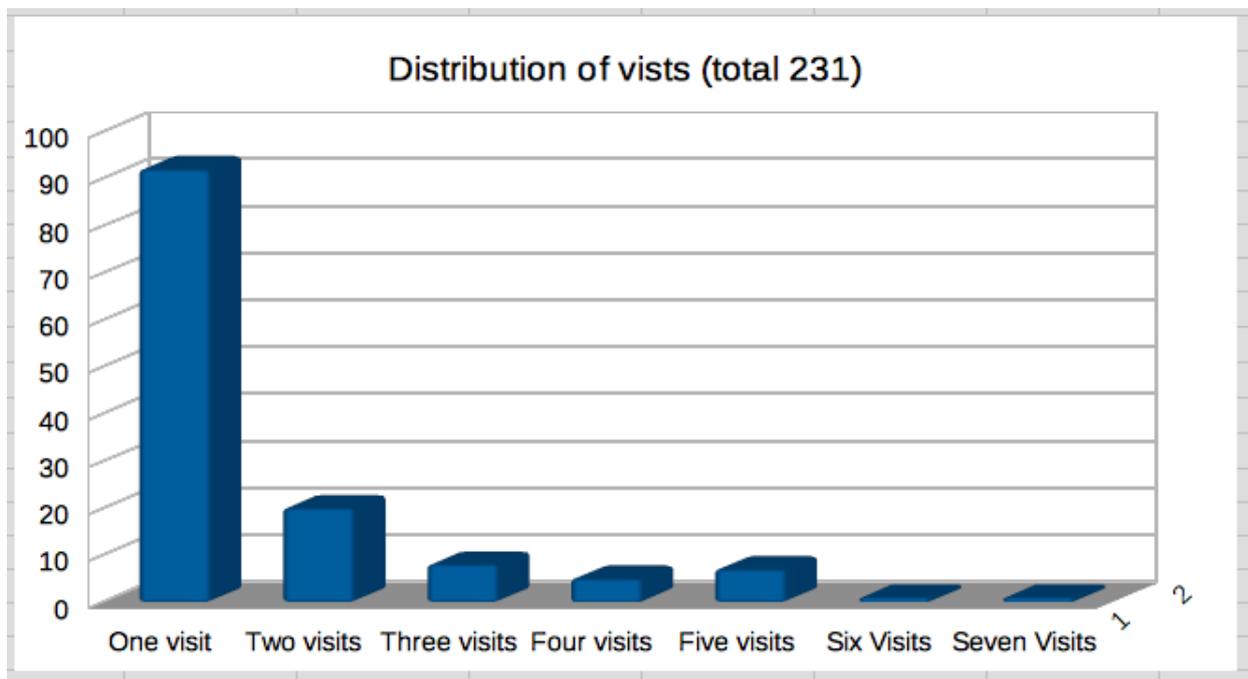
- The data lifecycle – the changed reality under GDPR
- Physical security, data loss and Ransomware
- Moving everything into the cloud and how it helped with physical security of our service
- UCISA resources and communities
- Communication and cooperation between ICT and Estates
- Wireless deployment – opportunities and challenges
- Connectivity over London – how London CIOs are working together to provide comprehensive connectivity
- Jisc Vulnerability Assessment Management Service – Why is this important
- King's and the RAID of doom
- Moving to a fully hosted cloud telephone system

# Patterns of attendance

The diagrams show the attendances at the London Group Meetings to date, and the patterns of attendance. Note that, of 231 attendances at the meetings, 92 were at one meeting only, with just under 20 visiting twice and many fewer making three or more visits.



NOTE: "other" includes anyone not from an HE, FE or SFC.



## London Liaison Officer, FEs and SFCs

The arrangements with UCISA include the employment of a London Liaison Officer. Bernard Aghedo was appointed to this role following a call for expressions of interest and interviews in late-April 2017. Bernard has worked closely with the UCISA Head of Policy and Projects, Anna Mathews, visiting FE and SFC members and facilitating the discussion sessions at the London Group meetings.

The other key element of the arrangement with UCISA is support by LMN for its FE and SFC members to join UCISA (a prerequisite for attendance at the London Group meetings). 26 colleges have benefited from this sponsorship and there is scope to increase the number to 30.

## Extension of the arrangements with UCISA

The initial agreement with UCISA covered calendar years 2017 and 2018. At its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018, the LMN Board agreed to extend this arrangement through to December 2019.

In the future, the Board is considering alternatives to full funding, such as a tapering funding model where LMN funds FE colleges over the next 2 years, moving to colleges self-funding in 2020 at the latest. We will be pursuing with UCISA the potential of an FE sub-group of UCISA to further develop the role of FEIs, though we recognise the scope is limited at present due to the low numbers of college members, which of course is growing specifically due to the success of the LMN-sponsored UCISA-London Group. This requires FEIs outside of London to see some value being created or contributed to UCISA from the London FEs.

## Other LMN activities

LMN is keen to assist its smaller member organisations with access to training. In the past it has sponsored Cisco and ITIL training, has run network security workshops and is currently considering further options for support. The Board has allocated a budget to this activity and is keen to hear from members about their priorities for training.

## LMN as a going concern

The Annual Accounts, prepared by LMN's auditors, are included for members to NOTE. The key point from the accounts is that LMN is a going concern, operating with its strategic reserves, which were £922,700 at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The average rate of expenditure is around £100,000 p.a., which gives LMN a number of years to plan its activities, based on the use of the reserves.

The accounts mention "subordinated loans". These are funds held in the reserves generated by membership fees during the first two years of LMN's operation (2000/01). In order to build up its reserves without becoming liable for Company

Tax, these fees were accounted for as loans. (Membership fees were charged in all years up until 2010, but only the first two years were treated this way.)

The Board is pleased to report that, following a mail-out to the 34 member organisations listed as having made these loans, 14 have so far agreed to convert their loans to grants. This means that, for the FY2017/18, LMN will report at least £76,475 of income. It is hoped that more member organisations will respond to another mail-out later this month.

The overheads (costs of administration) to keep LMN as a going concern are approximately 15% of its current expenditure.

## The future of LMN as a separate membership organisation

The Board has been considering the options for the future of LMN. At its current rates of expenditure and without any new income, LMN can expect to operate as a going concern using its strategic reserves for at least another five to seven years depending upon whether it increases the range of activities it conducts or sponsors. It has committed itself to the sponsorship of the UCISA London Group at least until the end of 2019, and placed £600k of its strategic reserves into a fixed term deposit account that will mature in March 2019. This points to a review point for the company in early 2019.

The Board is keen to hear from LMN Members about the options for its future. Broadly speaking, there are three scenarios:

1. carry on as it is, in line with the decisions taken by the members in 2011 (when they voted to change LMN's constitution to enable it to operate using its strategic reserves to support good practice in ICT in education in London) until the reserves are depleted (assuming no new income streams are found);
2. when current commitments are complete, wind up the company and transfer the remaining assets to another organisation that can continue LMN's mission in a more efficient manner (an option considered by members in 2011 but rejected because no suitable organisation was found);
3. when current commitments are complete, wind up the company and return any remaining assets to its members.

As noted, these scenarios assume that LMN does not find new sources of income by expanding its activities. The Board is also keen to hear from members who might consider there are alternate scenarios it should consider.

One of the elements that the Board is considering is how the UCISA London Group might develop as a model for regional groups. This is the first regional group operated by UCISA. Is it beneficial? Should other regions follow? What about Jisc, which is also (apparently) considering regional groups?

## Board memberships

Since the last AGM, the following Board members have stepped down: Arthur Spirling (first appointed to the Board in 2009); Andrew Kerl (active in various roles for LMN since 1999); Raghu Vydyanath (first appointed to the Board in 2013). The Board expects that members will join it in thanking them for their contribution.

A number of nominations have been received for the Board and we welcome these new colleagues.

Darren Tysoe

Chair

9<sup>th</sup> April 2018