



Management Development Programme Data and Information Professionals

For data and information managers of services for children and young people working in local authorities and their Children's Trust partners

This management development programme can be taken as a simple, stand alone course, or, for those that want to, it can include supported evaluation of a management issue faced by the participant, or it could be the first element of an optional three stage accreditation programme, which can lead from Certificate to Diploma and on to a Masters Degree or Doctorate

The programme content (originally based upon the "National Competences for Data and Information Professionals" jointly published by the VSC/CSN and the DfES) has recently been updated to reflect current issues faced by data and information professionals. It was designed to meet the need for significant change in the management of services for children and young people through local authorities and their strategic partners, and will review management issues faced by data and information managers.

Participants' knowledge and understanding will be enhanced through an exchange of ideas, experiences and opinions, by questioning assumptions, perceptions and expectations in the context of independent and collective study.

It is anticipated that the study of relevant activities in services for children and young people departments as well as other agencies, will produce considerable benefits to individual professionals and their local authorities, as well as to children, young people and families.

Aims

- To encourage participants to review and analyse their professional history and experience and to assess their professional development needs in relation to data management;
- To explore major management issues relating to data and information in services for children and young people and increase understanding of professional practice;
- To support the development of participants as autonomous, reflective practitioners; providing a flexible pathway for middle/senior managers to develop their own professional practice;
- To strengthen leadership and management capacity and skills of enquiry, analysis and evaluation through an action research project (where this option is taken);

Course content

Upon completion of the programme participants will have:

- demonstrated a critical understanding of the use of data and statistics to support the work of the local authority and children's services partners;
- considered the management of change in public sector organisations as the issues affecting local authorities and children's services in a changing political context are faced;
- explored the requirements for effective organisational and personal capacity building and assessed the processes and implications of organisational and personal performance management;
- considered the nature of strategic leadership and policy development within this context.
- applied research and evaluation skills, including collective enquiry to investigate workplace problems and inform solutions.

Course structure

The programme will be delivered in four one-day modules, each with a distinct focus, over an 8 month period.

Day 1 – Performance & Accountability:

Understanding Inspection and Audit Frameworks;
 Reflecting on how performance management can support an organisations in improving outcomes

Day 2 – Commissioning Information Management Systems:

Commissioning, managing and project management of systems of data exchange storage & reporting.

Day 3 – Analysis

The role of analysis in the commissioning cycle;
 Thinking strategically about analysis roles and functions.

Day 4 – Organisational Models

Local authority and partnership structures within which we work;
 Managing the work of data and information teams effectively and efficiently.

Two additional half days – For those that choose the action research option

The first half day will provide support in setting up and managing action research projects, the second in collectively reviewing their outcomes.

Fees:

£1150 plus VAT
 for VSC subscribing LAs/agencies

£1350 plus VAT
 for VSC non- subscribing LAs/agencies