

Management Development Programme for Data and Information Professionals

Background

This is a management development programme for data and information managers of children's services working in local authorities and their Children's Trust partners. It is 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 course has been designed to meet the real need for significant changes in the management of children's services through local authorities and their strategic partners. Issues of general management are addressed, with a particular focus on current challenges. However, the main focus of the programme is to provide a framework for investigating and understanding the role of data and improvement professionals in a local authority children's service setting. The course content is based upon the "National Competences for Data and Information Professionals" which was jointly published by the VSC/CSN and the DfES.

It is anticipated that the study of successful integration of relevant activities in children's service 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.

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.

Aims

- To encourage participants to review and analyse their professional history and experience in Local Authorities and Children's Services and to assess their professional development needs in relation to data management;
- To explore the major management issues relating to data and improvement for children's services and local authorities;
- To strengthen each participant's leadership and management capacity and skills of enquiry, analysis and evaluation through an action research project;
- To support the development of participants as autonomous, reflective practitioners;
- To increase understanding of professional practice;
- To provide a flexible pathway for middle/senior managers in local authorities to develop their own professional practice;

Course content

Upon completion of the programme participants will have:

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

Fees: £1150 plus VAT for VSC subscribing LAs/agencies
£1350 plus VAT for VSC non-subscribing LAs/agencies

For further details please contact the VSC office (details opposite)

Course structure

The programme will be delivered in five one-day modules over a period of eight months. Each day will have a distinct focus as follows:

Day 1 – Working with partners and stakeholders:

Understanding the Partnership context
Managing relationships
Supporting partners and stakeholders

Day 2 – Data Management and Exchange:

Understanding data management and exchange systems
Managing systems of data exchange and storage
Responding to development needs

Day 3 – Research and Statistics

Understanding research methods
Applying statistical techniques
Managing and conducting research
Action research projects

Day 4 – Performance and Accountability

Developing a needs analysis
Inspection and Audit Framework
Empowering the client

Day 5 – From research to strategic direction

Looking forward: informing strategy
Action research projects

Virtual Staff College
3rd Floor, The Triangle
Exchange Square
Manchester
M4 3TR

Telephone 0161 8385755

Fax 0161 8385756

www.virtualstaffcollege.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales
3691651