

Management Development Programme for the Collaboration for Children

This is a management development programme for managers of children's services in local authorities and their stakeholder partnerships. It is the first element of a three-stage programme, which can lead from Certificate to Diploma and on to a Masters Degree or Doctorate although formal accreditation is optional.

The course has been designed to meet the real need for significant changes in the management of children's services through local authority areas. Issues of general management are addressed, with a particular focus on current challenges. 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, their local authorities and partner agencies, as well as to children.

The course has been modified substantially in the past twelve months. It has been designed around five full days of attendance, comprising taught elements and group work elements. All participants carry out a professional development analysis and produce a management development project with appropriate supervision from line managers and tutors. The total personal study time for this is approximately 30 hours, although part of this time may blend with time at work, as the MDP is integrated with work-place priorities.

Participants are also expected to do pre- and post seminar reading, totalling approximately 40 hours. Those choosing to achieve accreditation also complete pieces of reflective writing at the end of the year, requiring about 60 hours of personal study.

The design and content of the course ensure that learning is embedded in professional experience in the workplace. Discussions and assignments are located at the interface between research, and practice. They support the exercise of informed judgement in challenging and complex social and educational settings.

At the end of the year successful participants can choose to enrol on the University of Exeter's Masters programme at the School of Education and Lifelong Learning to undertake assignments, which will draw from the candidate's professional experience and from the Management Development Programme. This enables subsequent entry to the University of Exeter's Masters programme. It should be noted that the accreditation processes do not begin until the end of the first year of the course. At this stage, students wishing to proceed in order to gain accreditation embark on a programme to obtain 60 M-level credits.

These credits can be awarded only on completion of the five days and the Professional Development Analysis and presentation of the Management Development Project,

plus satisfactory assessment of a

reflective overview of the Professional Development Analysis (4000 words)

practice study based on a priority workplace issue (4000 words).

Participants who obtain the 60 M-level credits will be entitled to the award of a University of Exeter Post Graduate Certificate in Education. They may choose to enrol on the module "Improvement through Change in Local Education Authorities" (30 credits), which will run if sufficient participants register, and the module "Preparing for Educational Enquiry" (30 credits). These can lead to a Diploma (120 credits) and, following submission of a satisfactory dissertation of 20,000 words, to a Masters degree (180 credits).

Participants not wishing to proceed to accreditation are awarded the VSC Certificate of Completion, once they have submitted a satisfactory Management Development Project and have completed their Professional Development Analysis.

Programme outline

Day 1 (20th January 2009): Leadership, Vision and Values in Local Authority and Children's Trusts services for children

Day 2 (23rd February): Capacity Building for Learning Local Authority areas

Day 3 (20th April): Professional Development Analysis and Management Development Project

Day 4 (18th May): Working in Partnership

Day 5 (13th July): Improving Performance

Fees: For subscribing LAs £1150 plus VAT per delegate
For non subscribing LAs £1350 plus VAT per delegate

There is an additional accreditation fee payable direct to the University for participants who elect to seek the Post Graduate Certificate.

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