

Management Development Programme: Children's Services

For managers of Children's Services in Local
Authorities and their stakeholder partnerships



This 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 qualification is optional.

The course has been designed to meet the real need for significant changes in the management of children's services throughout Children's Trusts. 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 and young people.

The programme content 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 workplace priorities.

Participants are also expected to engage in 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, course participants wishing to proceed to formal accreditation embark on a University 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 Management Development Project (4000 words)

Professional Development Analysis and practice study based on a priority workplace issue (4000 words)

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.

Thanks to support from the NWIEP, there will be no charge for this programme.

There is one place per Children's Trust

Please note that any sessions due to take place after 30th June 2009 are subject to continued funding from NWIEP.

For further information please contact David Tilbrook on 0161 838 5764 or email to events@virtualstaffcollege.co.uk

Programme outline:

Day 1 – 15th June 2009

Leadership, vision and values in LA and Children's Trusts services for children

Day 2 – 14th July 2009

Capacity building for learning Local Authority Areas

Day 3 – 18th September 2009

Professional Development Analysis and Management Development Project

Day 4 – 20th October 2009

Working in partnership and building teams

Day 5 – 24th November 2009

Improving performance

Venue: **Room Four**

58 Legh Street, Goldborne,
Warrington, WA3 3PA

Please complete the registration form and return to:

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