



**THE  
STAFF  
COLLEGE**

PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

# The Leadership Academy Programme 2016 - 2017

Strategic seminars for 2nd & 3rd tier officers, or equivalent, from across the public sector, whose goal is to achieve excellence in their current role.

## Leadership Academy 3: New learning and innovation in safeguarding practice

**2nd March 2017 - The Studio, 7 Cannon St, Birmingham B2 5EP**

The Leadership Academy programme is a partnership venture between the Staff College and the Association of Directors of Children's Services. It seeks to provide senior leaders and managers working in the delivery of children's and adults' services and public health with the opportunity to meet, share practice and reflect on the challenges and solutions currently facing them. Through this interaction it is hoped to establish a personal support network which will, over time, provide opportunities for Assistant Directors/senior leaders to meet regularly, exchange practice and grow professionally.

The Academy seminars are characterised by all participants coming prepared to contribute as well as listen, and through this collaborative practice, enhance and extend the collective intelligence of our community. This process will be augmented by both formal and interactive contributions from practitioners, key contributors to the national programmes for serving and aspirant DCSs and senior colleagues from the broader system. Through this blended learning approach, it is hoped to provide a practical balance between best professional practice and new learning challenges.

### The Theme

*"Without doubt social workers must be trusted to get on and do the job they came into the profession to do. We must be enabled to use our professional judgment in flexible and creative ways, rather than having to follow a procedural path or series of legal rules, far too automated to match the social complexity of the lives of the children and families with whom we work. We also need to work within the right cultural context which supports a practice system sophisticated enough to meet that complexity."*

- Isabelle Trowler (Chief Social Worker for Children and Families)

Safeguarding and keeping children safe remains the key responsibility and challenge for all working in children's services. The potential for things to go wrong constitutes the greatest risk to leaders. However, in a context of diminishing resources, uncertainty and ambiguity, social care practitioners cannot and should not be solely responsible for keeping children safe.

This thematic seminar will consider the current and future leadership challenges and opportunities and explore ways in which we might alter or re-frame the prevailing discourse about for children's social care in England. Case practice examples from two Local Authorities where services for children and judged good, with areas of outstanding practice, will share how leaders have managed to shape the corporate and political context so that children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers become truly everyone's business.

Timing	Activity
9:00	Registration
9:30	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>
9:45	<p><b>Session 1 - A view from the bridge</b></p> <p>We will use this session to set the scene for the day by considering the challenges and opportunities in the current climate and those that might lie ahead. We will also explore ways in which we might alter or re-frame the prevailing discourse about children's social care in England</p> <p><b>Dave Hill</b>, ADCS President and Executive Director People Commissioning, Essex County Council  <b>Anton Florek</b>, Chief Executive, The Staff College</p>
10:45	Break
11:00	<p><b>Session 2 - Case practice example: London Borough of Ealing</b></p> <p>Ofsted judged recently that services for children in Ealing are good and those for care leavers are outstanding. This session will consider how leaders in children services worked across the corporate and political context to create what inspectors described as the collective passion, ambition and creativity to secure good outcomes</p> <p><b>Marcella Phelan</b>, Assistant Director - Planning, Commissioning and Partnerships, Ealing London Borough Council  <b>Roger Bushell</b>, Principal Associate, The Staff College</p>
12:30	Lunch
13:15	<p><b>Session 3 - Case practice example: Lincolnshire County Council</b></p> <p>Services in Lincolnshire for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers are judged good and the authority is a Partner in Practice. This session will consider how the authority continues to focus its efforts on improving practice in Lincolnshire and other Children's Services by transforming the quality of children's social care services and early help arrangements.</p> <p><b>Stuart Carlton</b>, Assistant Director of Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council  <b>Anton Florek</b>, Chief Executive, The Staff College</p>
14:45	Break
15:00	<p><b>Session 4 - What is the learning?</b></p> <p>We will use this session to reflect on the learning that has emerged throughout the day and compare and contrast the case practice examples from Ealing and Lincolnshire with developments in participants' own local areas.</p> <p><b>Anton Florek</b>, Chief Executive, The Staff College  <b>Roger Bushell</b>, Principal Associate, The Staff College</p>
16:15	<b>Recap and commitments</b>
16:30	Finish

Places on the 2016/17 series of Leadership Academies are chargeable at £325 + VAT per seminar\*. For more information about the programme, [download a copy of the 2016/17 Leadership Academy Programme Flyer](#).

If you would like to book your place, please complete the [booking form](#) and return to the Staff College team via: [tony.watton@thestaffcollege.uk](mailto:tony.watton@thestaffcollege.uk).

\*A reduced rate is available for subscribing LAs, to find out more please [click here](#).