

Scenario Planning: a fresh look at future public services

A joint offer from: The Staff College and SOLACE

29th November 2017 - Central London

*"Public services face unprecedented challenges. Rising demand, changing demographics and increasingly stretched finances mean that the choice for local authorities **and public service providers** is stark: change the way they work, or face the possibility of service retrenchment, increasing irrelevance and perpetual crisis management."* - RSA (2015)

Scenario planning is a powerful tool for learning about the future by understanding the nature and impact of the most uncertain and important driving forces affecting our world. It is a group process that encourages knowledge exchange and a deeper understanding of the forces most likely to influence future public sector provision.

By extrapolating uncertain but influential driving forces, participants will create a number of plausible alternative versions of the future through stories or scenarios. Scenarios are a way to structure, think about, and plan for, future uncertainties. It requires the articulation of more than one possible future (typically three or four). Scenarios do not predict the future; rather they provide the means to consider and test today's policy decision-making processes in the light of potential future developments.

The Staff College and SOLACE have jointly designed a one-day workshop for Elected Members, Chief Executives and Directors/ Heads of service which aims to:

- create an experiential learning environment in which to consider the future challenges to public sector provision and the opportunities for new and innovative delivery options
- connect together strategic thinking from political and corporate perspectives across public services in general and "people" services in particular
- introduce key tools and concepts to support future focused service provision and leadership, drawing on whole systems, new public governance ideas and futures thinking
- introduce a purposeful scenario planning process / tool which can be embedded practically in current leadership practice.

Places at the seminar are chargeable at £155 + VAT per seminar. If you require more information about the programme, please contact Ruth Lloyd via: hello@thestaffcollege.uk.

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