

SOLACE Scotland Chief Executive and Senior Executive Leadership Development Programme

Masterclass Programme 2017



The Improvement Service has been working with SOLACE Scotland to develop a programme of masterclasses on topical and skills based issues that will support you to address some of the key issues and challenges that you face as a Chief Executive or Senior Executive within local government. Each masterclass will be highly discursive and interactive, with delegates playing a full and active role.

There is no charge to attend the masterclasses for SOLACE members. They are also open to non-SOLACE members, at a cost of £75 per person per masterclass, which is non-refundable once a place is booked.

Two masterclasses are currently planned for 2017 and information about these can be found below. Further masterclasses are being developed and details of those will be released shortly.

Leading Educational Improvement within a Complex System

Tuesday, 7 March 2017, 10am - 1pm

The Adam Room, John Muir House, East Lothian Council, Haddington EH41 3HA

***Hosted by Angela Leitch, Chief Executive of East Lothian Council and SOLACE Scotland
Strategic Lead for Children, Young People and Education***

***Facilitated by Professor Chris Chapman, Chair of Education and Public Policy and Practice,
Glasgow University***

This topical and interactive masterclass will support and challenge participants to:

- Consider the key levers for improving educational attainment and the action they need to take to ensure any education reform takes a holistic view of the child, the family and their community and is aligned or integrated with related reforms.
- Focus on how educational improvement can be linked to the wider community empowerment and economic reforms already underway, learning from international practice.
- Consider what needs to be done to develop a resilient approach to sustainable improvement over time, given the financial, resource and capacity pressures the whole system faces.

Using Research Evidence for Policy and Practice: an Introduction

Monday, 27 March 2017, 10am - 1pm

Cunninghame House, Irvine

Hosted by Elma Murray, Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council and Chair of Outcomes, Evidence and Performance Board on behalf of SOLACE Scotland

Facilitated by Pippa Coutts, Project Lead Evidence Exchange, The Alliance for Useful Evidence, NESTA

This session focuses on what evidence is and how it may be used in local authority decision-making. Evidence helps us to understand the societal challenges facing local government and gauge the effectiveness of its services – including evidence of local needs. It also helps us to think about what interventions and courses of action might work, and what will fail or even do harm. Evidence also helps us to be ‘learning organisations’, responding to the research that is out there on the best approaches to improving people’s lives. However, using evidence is far from easy – there are challenges around what evidence is appropriate for commissioning, evaluating and redesigning services; where to find evidence, and whether and how to collect evidence.

This masterclass is based on the Alliance for Useful Evidence’s successful one-day Evidence masterclass, and it will support participants to:

- Develop an understanding of evidence-informed policy and decision making
- Find out when using evidence can help
- Explore different types of evidence and how to identify the most appropriate source
- Assess the quality and findings of research evidence and to use research to demonstrate impact

If you’ve any questions about the masterclass programme, please contact sarah.gadsden@improvementservice.org.uk

To book a place on these masterclasses, please email fiona.ritchie@improvementservice.org.uk

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