

Leadership Programmes

Enterprise Office



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME



SOAS, University of London developed the 'Community Leadership Programme' (CLP) in 2010 and since then over 100 professionals in four separate cohorts have completed the 9-month programme. The first three iterations were funded by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council and the most recent iteration by the European Commission. The CLP provides participants with the opportunity to take the first post-graduate Diploma in the UK focussing on Law and Community Leadership while receiving professional mentoring and work placements.

BACKGROUND AND REQUIREMENTS

Nurturing and cultivating the foundations of community leadership, especially in environments facing the challenges of diversity, is vital if we are to appropriately address urgent social issues surrounding identity, citizenship, belonging and human rights.

In this context, the Community Leadership Programme aims to develop and refine leadership skills and empower individuals who are, or wish to be, community leaders. Through specific and targeted training, participants are enabled to address a wide range of community needs, issues and perceived skills deficit, facilitate enhanced communication and partnership between community organisations and statutory bodies, and to foster the development of cohesive and integrated communities that can fulfil their aspirations and contribute to the local, regional and national success.

APPROACH

The cohort attends an innovative, bespoke, accredited SOAS postgraduate programme which connects academic, theoretical and practical expertise, including uniquely focused illustrations of how current business and organisational skills and knowledge can be utilised to aid community-based leadership.

Individuals are challenged to critically review their knowledge and skill-set, and are equipped with a comprehensive 'tool-kit', with the core aim of empowering individuals to help them become the next generation of community leaders across our society.

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

Individuals develop a sense of confidence and belief in themselves and their ideas, recognising that leadership is more than holding a position and requires a deep commitment to social justice and social responsibility. By serving as positive social change agents they are empowered to tackle urgent social problems practically, both locally and nationally, particularly in highly diverse arenas.

BESPOKE PROGRAMME

The interdisciplinary programme covers a wide range of topics including understanding and facilitating the many voices, cultures and religions in the community, civic participation, research methods, advocacy, diversity of leadership and management styles and tools, the nature and role of law, key organisational and business skills. These are all brought together to address urgent community social issues connected in particular to community cohesion, education, mental health, the criminal justice system, discrimination and hate crime. Through unique tools developed by the course convenors individuals are able to develop life-long personal and professional development goals and skills.

PARTICIPANTS SAID...

"I have never met such inspirational teachers who are so dedicated in helping their students. I feel overwhelmed by their support and belief in us. Thank you so much".

CHARLOTTE NICOL, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER, DRAKE MUSIC



Lord Nazir Ahmed with graduate Angela Shafer,
ESOL teacher, ELATT



LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

CLIENT: FUTURE LEADERS LTD, UK

CONTENT: LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND AND REQUIREMENTS

This customised training programme was conceived by the organisation Future Leaders Ltd with SOAS academics to develop the skills of promising young professionals from Bangladesh, enabling them to build their own competences and thereby contribute to the development of the nation. Effective leadership is a key factor for success in all types of organisations and communities and during challenging economic times it is particularly important to ensure that future leaders can be developed in the community, public and business sectors.

The core themes required for the training were raising awareness of the value of leadership; how to help individuals to identify skills and development needs and improving access to leadership development.

APPROACH

In order to win a place on the programme hundreds of graduate applicants from Bangladesh underwent a highly competitive process which culminated in a two-month televised series of leadership-themed tasks on Channel I in the style of 'The Apprentice' as shown on the BBC. The successful applicants were funded to attend the 3-week leadership course at SOAS which covered a variety of skills-based topics such as how to devise and evaluate your vision, strategy and tactics, business intelligence, performance management and managing diversity. The programme also covered current issues in Bangladesh including governance, growth and poverty reduction, democracy, accountability, the rule of law and human rights to help participants understand the local context. Moreover, the programme evaluated the leadership skills of each participant through a series of assessments, and provided them with tailored advice and bespoke tools to enable personal and professional development.

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

This was the first ever TV reality show in Bangladesh to search for future leader talent and the model is set to continue for several years, with funding committed to continue the selection process and training provision. Hundreds of graduates from all over Bangladesh have engaged in the process so far and many of these have been recruited by corporate, public and community sector organisations following their exposure through the selection process.

PARTICIPANTS SAID...

"In Bangladesh we must develop strong leaders at all levels, who can facilitate economic development and further the national interest. Our organisation's vision is to make this a reality."

MR NAZIR ALAM , CEO OF FUTURE LEADERS LTD

"It has been a rewarding experience to work with this selected group of young future leaders. They hit the ground running and have been highly articulate and open to interdisciplinary debates."

PROFESSOR WERNER MENSKI FROM SOAS



Participants in FLL Programme

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

CLIENT: COREINSIGHT CONSULTING AND DEVELOPMENT UK

CONTENT: LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND AND REQUIREMENTS

SOAS partnered with Coreinsight who had identified a need for leadership training programmes designed specifically for women in order to address a particular set of leadership issues related to gender. The programme was designed for African women working in a range of sectors and professions, who were looking to develop their skills in leadership to help them carry out their roles effectively. Participants were seeking to define what they want from their professional and personal lives, to identify their strengths and natural style, and create connections and support to achieve their full potential as outstanding leaders.

APPROACH

A team of SOAS academics and practitioners from other organisations delivered a one-week workshop, providing an intellectually rigorous environment to enable participants to share their challenges and experiences. Sessions included topics such as "What makes a good leader?"; "Understanding women leaders" and "Black women in leadership and management". A combination of lectures and more practical skills-development sessions were provided, with a significant part of the input from practitioners from organisations such as Operation Black Vote and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. Insights from the corporate world were provided by a member of Lloyds Banking Group. The training approach was highly interactive with plenty of time for group discussions, enabling the participants to learn from each other.

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

By the end of the workshop the participants had developed new skills to help them identify and develop their own influencing styles, set personal goals and create strategies to deal with personal and professional challenges. The women were able to develop a heightened awareness of their own behaviour and leadership styles and to identify ways of making these more effective, sometimes in difficult circumstances. They also learnt about key obstacles to women's leadership success and an appreciation of when / why gender matters in a professional context.

PARTICIPANTS SAID...

"The sessions were educational and fulfilling and will go a long way to helping participants improve in their various careers; especially as leaders"

"We are grateful to the staff at SOAS for their extraordinary efforts in unlocking new leadership potential for women executives from African public & private sectors"

CHINEZE BEN-NWANKWO
COREINSIGHT



Women's Leadership Class



For more information on any of our leadership programmes please get in touch.

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