25th June 2014

Dear Colleague

Invitation: applications for new round of Systems Leadership – Local Vision programmes

On behalf of the Systems Leadership Steering Group, the Leadership Centre would like to announce the call for applications for the second round of Systems Leadership – Local Vision projects around the country. We would welcome a conversation with you about what this could mean for you and your community.

The projects so far have brought people together from across the NHS, local government, public health, social care and other services, in order to create new ways of working across boundaries and achieve measurable improvements in health, care and wellbeing.

Applicants have been asked to identify a ‘wicked issue’ in their locality, where progress needs to involve a number of different sectors. To ensure that lessons are sustained, they commit to applying what they learn about Systems Leadership to other issues, and to sharing that learning so that other areas can benefit.

The first 25 programmes, which started last year, have covered a broad range of issues, from improving safeguarding for adults and children and integrating services for older people, to reducing alcohol abuse and improving exercise levels amongst a local population. Each project receives financial support alongside support from an experienced ‘enabler’, specialising in Systems Leadership approaches, to help the leaders in each project come together and deliver successful outcomes.

Outcomes have already included better integration across health, social care, local government and police services to support safeguarding; stronger networks between food producers and consumers to reduce waste in local food production; and commissioners working more closely with service users, carers and the voluntary sector in support of truly integrated services. A report can be found at: http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/docs/Revolution%20will%20be%20improvised%20publication%20v3.pdf

Feedback has been very positive about the programme, Anthony May, Deputy Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council, was a key figure in their Systems Leadership project which supported a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). According to Anthony: “The creation of Nottinghamshire’s MASH offered an excellent opportunity to implement Systems Leadership to solve a number of challenging issues. The support of the Leadership Centre allowed us to take a holistic, collaborative and flexible approach to improving processes, integrating across boundaries and freeing up capacity.”

Felicity Owen, Director of Public Health in Cornwall, oversaw their Systems Leadership project around reducing food poverty. She said: “Being part of Systems Leadership – Local Vision has been invigorating, fun and is developing great outcomes, keeping local voices at its heart and making a real difference to creating food wealth.”

We are now looking to support a further 20 places, starting later this year.
Applications should involve a range of partners, such as Health and Wellbeing Boards, Service User and Carer Groups, local government, providers and commissioners across adults’ and children’s social care, primary and secondary health care, the private sector, and public health.

We would appreciate your promoting the programme as widely as possible across your networks, and we would be very interested to receive an application from you, or to have an early discussion beforehand.

More information and details of how to apply can be found at: http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/place/lvinvitation/

Alternatively, please contact Debbie Sorkin on 0207 664 3137 or John Jarvis on 0207 187 7385 for a further conversation and to connect to an existing project representative.

Integration and joined-up working is a crucial issue: we know we can count on your support and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Reeves
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Chief Executive of Coventry City Council

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