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# Developing and facilitating the leadership of networks

**A programme for local authority networkers, network brokers, advocates and facilitators**

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# Developing and facilitating the leadership of networks

**A programme for local authority networkers, network brokers, advocates and facilitators**

Research has shown that where local authority officers and school leaders share an understanding of external and internal facilitation, the potential of networks to succeed is significantly enhanced.

This programme will help to explore the new and emerging relationship with and between local authority staff in the context of the leadership, facilitation and brokerage of networks and collaboratives. There is no other programme currently available nationally which offers such training and development.

## Who is it for?

The target audience is local authority school improvement inspectors, advisers, school leaders, external consultants commissioned by local authorities and school networks. The provision has been designed, piloted and revised by a partnership consisting of the Association of Professionals in Education and Children's Trusts (Aspect) and the National College for School Leadership (NCSL).

## Why has it been developed?

In the past 18 months there has been a significant move within the system to support the development of school-based networks. This is most evident in the development of for example:

- Excellence Clusters
- Federations
- Specialist Schools and Colleges
- 14-19 Partnerships
- Primary National Strategy Networks
- London Challenge
- NCSL Networked Learning Communities
- LIGs and Education Improvement Partnerships
- multi-agency networks focused on the *Every Child Matters* agenda

This approach is reinforced in the white paper which proposes the opportunity for schools to form partnerships within trusts.

## What are the main aims of the programme?

The programme has three main aims:

1 developing knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the leadership, brokerage and facilitation of school- based networks
2 supporting greater efficiency and impact in the work of networks in delivering the five outcomes for children and young people from 0-18
3 developing greater collaborative capacity within local authorities

## How is the programme designed?

This provision is designed both as a comprehensive course and also as a series of stand alone modules. Different local authorities and different groups of colleagues will be at different stages of experience with networks. Aspect will be happy to discuss the best option and format for your local authority.

## Is there any accreditation?

Each of the six sessions in the programme has specific aims which have been cross-referenced with four of the six units within the National Standards for Educational Improvement Professionals. The four units are:

| Unit 1 | Developing self and others |
|---|---|
| Unit 2 | Professional leadership to build capacity |
| Unit 3 | Promoting learning |
| Unit 4 | Developing and sustaining partnerships |

This programme will support participants who wish to achieve accreditation in up to four of the units, through work-based accreditation. The modules themselves are not subject to any form of assessment.

| Module/title | Content |
|---|---|
| **Module 1**<br>The core model, setting the scene – reshaping the landscape | ▪ What are we talking about?<br>▪ What has this to do with local authorities?<br>▪ Is there a compelling reason to engage with networks? |
| **Module 2**<br>Developing and facilitating the leadership of networks | ▪ Establishing networks<br>▪ Network growth<br>▪ Building capacity and sustaining a network |
| **Module 3**<br>Supporting enquiry | ▪ Effective methods for collaborative research and enquiry<br>▪ Leadership – what it means to individuals and networks<br>▪ CPD and school improvement |
| **Module 4**<br>Evaluating impact | ▪ Cultural transformation<br>▪ Methodology<br>▪ Network self-evaluation |
| **Module 5**<br>Developing facilitation skills | ▪ Facilitation skills<br>▪ Tools and processes |