Introduction to CVSL's leadership courses

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BUSINESS SCHOOL

About the Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership

- Focus on leadership in smaller voluntary organisation

- New research on leadership and more...

- Creating and making free online open courses available

- Engaging frequently with local community, voluntary and even larger charities

Approach to **leadership** learning:

- Challenges traditional ideas of hierarchical, individualistic leadership
- Encourages reflection, critical thinking, and application to practice
- Leadership as a practice – that unsettles, questions, and shapes meaning
  - As much about *developing* leadership as *learning* about it
- Real cases from practice
- Video and audio plus written text
- Creation of a learning community - learning together - eg forums

The CVSL has a growing collection of online courses hosted on **OpenLearn Create**, including these highlights:

Leadership courses

Introducing leadership in voluntary...

This free course, Introducing leadership in voluntary organisations, provides an opportunity for people who...

Read more ›

Collaborative leadership in...

This free course, Collaborative leadership in voluntary organisations, will help you to reflect on and develop...

Read more ›

Involving volunteers

This is a short course on volunteering developed by Volunteer Scotland and the Centre for Voluntary Sector...

Read more ›

Free, open leadership resources

New voluntary sector leadership courses

As a key part of its aim is to become a trusted source of expertise in voluntary sector leadership development, CVSL has a particular mission to research, engage with, and ultimately impact on improving collaborative leadership in smaller voluntary sector organisations.

Central to this is providing access to free leadership courses and to help leader and aspiring leaders to help adapt to the multiple challenges they face.

New course opportunities

Introducing leadership in voluntary organisations, will involve approximately 15 hours of learning and will provide an opportunity for people who work within voluntary organisations, as paid employees or staff, to develop energetic, practical and thoughtful leadership practice. The course explores this rich concept from a number of different perspectives but emphasises that any group of willing people is capable of energetic, collaborative leadership. Learners will gain insights and practices to facilitate stepping into leadership. Core to the course will be developing a vibrant community of leadership within the voluntary sector, one that connects the academic, voluntary and political worlds, bringing together people committed to fresh thinking.

Course outlines

Intro to Leadership in VOs

- 15 hours / 5 weeks
- Thinking Leadership

  Leadership as person: traits

  Transformational leadership and power

  Leadership as ethics

  Leadership as practice

- Statement of participation

Collaborative Leadership in VOs

- 24 hours / 8 weeks
- Thinking about collaborative leadership

  Identity and participative practice

  Working with identity, reflection and difference

  Collaborative leadership and the unknown

  Generating good challenge

  Collaborating across organisational boundaries

  Collaborative leadership and power

  Weaving the collaborative fabric

- Quizzes -> Digital Badge

The learning club concept
Learning is a social process

- People learn best when they interact with each other

- Bringing together a group of learners to support each other throughout the online course

- Facilitation - by a respected and more experienced person - enhances the experience

- Flexible in terms of settings, length and format

- Meet regularly at key points, eg community centre; and keep in touch, eg through WhatApp, Facebook

- Practical support eg with enrolment

The facilitation pack

- Provides guidance to the learning supporter
- Talks you through the approach and 'philosophy' of the courses, and how to encourage learners
- Maximises chance of success and completion
- We want to know how it worked for you and that it enhances the experience of the courses

Enrolment:

- Enrol for each course
- Engage with the learning community
- Access interactive elements, including learning journal and online forums
- Evidences participation
- Increases CVSL's understanding of learner engagement

New Volunteer Scotland course

- Shows the benefits of working in partnership with civil society organisations

- The course is written from the Volunteer perspective (that's a first)

- Together we are supporting Volunteer Scotland on their journey on making their learning more accessible and open to a wider audience

- The course is aimed at the full spectrum of volunteer practice i.e. we are writing for the smaller community groups

Course outline

Involving Volunteers

- 14 hours

- Thinking about volunteering

   Getting started

   Making a difference

   Building on success

   Developing your practice

- Free statement of participation

Examples of digital badges

Contact

- https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/leadership-resources-the-voluntary-sector
- http://www.open.ac.uk/business-school-research/centre-voluntary-sector-leadership/
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