

The future of leadership in Scotland's social services

'Changing Lives', 'Investing in Children's Futures' and SWIA's performance inspections have all identified that effective leadership is essential to good quality outcomes for people who use social services and their carers. Scottish Government has asked the Scottish Social Services Council and the four Scottish Social Services Learning Networks to take forward the strategic direction for leadership in social services. This statement sets out our approach.

Key objectives for 2010-11

The SSSC and the Learning Networks aim to build on the achievements of leadership activity to date in the sector through the Changing Lives Leadership and Management Group and its partner organisations. These include the 'Leading to Deliver' leadership development programme, leadership communities, the leadership framework for social services, the Standard for Childhood Practice and the Chief Social Work Officer guidance.

With financial support from Scottish Government, the emphasis for the coming year is on consolidating these achievements and engaging with the sector to set out the vision for leadership in social services. Key objectives include:

- Engaging with social service workers, employers and people who use services to identify development needs in relation to leadership
- Mapping existing leadership activity and promoting awareness of existing resources
- Further developing leadership communities
- Developing senior leadership capacity within social work services and collaboratively across sector boundaries
- Building on strategic links between leadership activity in social services, health and education.

Partnership approach

As well as the collaborative working between the SSSC and the Learning Networks, success will depend on working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders across the social services sector and in other sectors such as health and education. A Steering Group chaired by Scottish Government has been set up to provide strategic direction and ensure collaboration across the many partners needed to make leadership activity effective.

Conclusion

The SSSC and the Learning Networks are keen to engage with the sector to agree the strategic vision for leadership in social services over the coming years. We will be communicating regularly through our websites, newsletters and e-bulletins and arranging events. We hope that you will take the opportunity to participate to make sure that the vision for leadership and planned activity meets your needs.

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