



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The Public Service Transformation Academy working with Somerset County Council

Somerset Commissioning Academies

The Commissioning Academy is a challenging and intensive programme for public service commissioners designed to bring about real behaviour change. It was launched in 2012 by the Cabinet Office and is now delivered by the Public Service Transformation Academy, a partnership led by RedQuadrant.

The Somerset Academies are a local adaptation of our national approach, tailored to focus in particular on challenges in the health and social care sector. Local partners included Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Health Education England through STP local area workforce board, the NHS QI faculty, and the South West Academic Health Science Network.

The academies are first and foremost about why we work together as place shapers and systems leaders. They examine how we build a mutually supportive team ethos across partners in Somerset by developing stronger relationships, a shared understanding and approach, collaborative behaviours, and strengths/asset-based approaches.

A key component of the Academy is through the challenges (identified and agreed upon through discussion with all partners in the system) that participants are working on. The emphasis is about building momentum through action research and creating an action plan (a 100 hundred day plan) by day five to make real change happen.

Outcomes

Our cohorts demonstrated buy-in across the system, with take-up exceeding expectations – we wanted a minimum of 25 participants, but in the first academy there were 40. Participants came from across the local authority (including children’s and adults’ services, economic and community infrastructure, and public health), the CCG, primary care, the police, district councils, the department for work and pensions, and Somerset partnership NHS foundation trust.

The feedback was excellent, with 100 per cent of participants reporting on day five that:

- They had made useful connections via the academy;
- They had learnt from other academy participants; and
- The academy had been relevant or highly relevant to their individual learning needs and had been a good or excellent use of their time.

For further information contact:

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