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Local Trust



Get involved

Suggest someone you know for the Community Leadership Academy

The Community Leadership Academy provides support for the people making Big Local happen, helping them to develop skills and knowledge that can benefit the whole community.

Across Big Local, people are working together to create lasting change. If you have experienced challenges but overcome them, brought people together and helped build community spirit then you are already playing a leadership role. The Community Leadership Academy could help your Big Local area achieve even more.

Open to residents who are active volunteers involved in delivering Big Local projects, including Big Local partnership members, the Community Leadership Academy is looking for people who want to explore their own potential and the change they can bring to their neighbourhoods, by working effectively with others.

What will I learn?

One-to-one support is at the heart of the Community Leadership Academy. In a series of confidential conversations between you and a leadership coach, you will define personal goals and agree steps you can take to achieve them – all at your own pace and in your own local area.

Participants will also meet each other, explore common issues, and work together on shared priorities. There will be a chance to learn from the group, listen to speakers and share your own knowledge. The content of these sessions will be developed with you, and will include understanding your own leadership style, how you work with others, and how to work effectively within your local context.

How to take part

We are inviting all Big Local areas to recommend someone who is a volunteer resident, actively involved in delivering Big Local, who – with the right support – could make even more of a difference in their neighbourhood. Follow these simple steps:



1. Put a name forward (the first round of recommendations has now closed and will reopen later this year)

2. You've been recommended – do you want to apply?

Everyone whose name was put forward by 13 January 2020 will be contacted by email, provided with further information and an opportunity to ask questions. To continue, you'll need to fill in a short form* to confirm you want to take part and tell us a bit about yourself before **Wednesday 22 January 2020**.

3. It's time to join

The first group will find out if they have a place in February 2020 and will start in March 2020. If there are more people applying than places available, selection criteria will apply – please see the section on eligibility below.

* If you need help filling in forms, please [contact us by email](#) or call Stephanie on 020 3588 0583.

Eligibility

Who is eligible?

The Community Leadership Academy is open to anyone who lives in a Big Local area and is an active volunteer involved in delivering a Big Local project. This includes Big Local partnership members. You check whether you live in a Big Local area on our [map](#).

I am a worker, can I take part?

The Community Leadership Academy offers specialised support for resident volunteers only, as this type of tailored support is almost non-existent elsewhere. We encourage Big Local workers to talk to their partnership and LTO to discuss training and professional development. We also offer many [Big Local events](#) which are open to workers.

I'm not a Big Local resident, can I be involved?

Big Local is a place-based programme designed to benefit residents who live within Big Local areas, so you will need to be a resident to be eligible for the Community Leadership Academy. You can check whether your address is in a Big Local area on our [map](#).

Is there an age limit?

At this stage the offer is limited to those aged 18 or above. However, if you are interested in this kind of support and you are under 18 then please contact Stephanie at leadershipacademy@localtrust.org.uk to discuss further.

Can I put my own name forward?

Yes, you can put your own name forward and once you've done that, we will ask you to fill in an application form.

Can I put forward more than one name?

Absolutely, you can nominate as many people as you like that you think might benefit and are eligible.

Can more than one person from the same Big Local area take part?

There is no formal limit but you should be aware that if there are more people applying than places available, then selection criteria will be applied.

How will places be allocated?

We want to ensure the 80 places at the Community Leadership Academy are allocated fairly and are representative of Big Local areas overall – we are particularly keen to reflect the diversity of individuals volunteering with Big Local.

Costings and timings

How much does it cost?

Taking part won't cost you anything. Local Trust will be able to book and pay for your travel and accommodation before the group sessions.

Local Trust may also be able to cover childcare or caring costs whilst you attend sessions.

Please contact Stephanie McKinley at leadershipacademy@localtrust.org.uk to discuss further.

Key dates

- **Monday 13 January 2020**

If you want to put someone forward for the Community Leadership Academy, you'll need to complete the form by this date.

- **Wednesday 22 January 2020**

The person you put forward will have until 22 January to complete the application form they will be emailed.

- **February 2020**

People will find out if they have a place in the first group in February 2020.

- **March 2020**

The first group will start.

Expectations

How much time will it take?

Everyone who confirms they want to take part will be asked to commit to regular one-to-one sessions with a leadership coach as well as group sessions, which together will be spread over approximately one year.

The one-to-one coaching sessions will happen in your area. You should expect to travel and possibly stay away overnight for the group sessions with other Big Local leaders from across the country. The frequency and style of these sessions will be decided jointly, taking into account the availability of those taking part.

The first group of people joining the Community Leadership Academy will start in March 2020, and other groups will start between 2020-21.

Is there a course timetable?

Unlike standard training programmes, the Community Leadership Academy will be tailored to suit the people taking part. This means participants will be regularly invited to share their ideas and suggestions about what they want to learn.

You'll also be offered opportunities to provide feedback throughout. To make the most out of Community Leadership Academy we also hope that you'll be open to sharing your experience with your coach and your groups.

Accessibility

I have a disability, will this be accessible?

Please contact Stephanie at leadershipacademy@localtrust.org.uk if you have access requirements so we can understand your needs and discuss how we can support you.

Can it work around my current commitments/requirements?

Yes. We want the support offer to be as accessible as possible and we will be as flexible as we can. We appreciate that you are a volunteer and may have prior commitments, so we will try to do our very best to make sure these are not obstacles to you taking part.

There may also be other considerations such as health issues, childcare or caring responsibilities that you may feel could restrict your involvement. Please contact Stephanie at leadershipacademy@localtrust.org.uk to discuss further.

If you need help filling in forms, please [contact us by email](#) or call Stephanie on 020 3588 0583.

Updated 13 January 2020.