

Workshop B – Member peer masterclass – ideas exchange for experienced member peers

Member Peer Conference

Wednesday 6 September 2017

Manchester Town Hall, Manchester

Workshop B – Member peer masterclass – ideas exchange for experienced member peers

Cllr Sir Steve Houghton, Leader, Barnsley Metropolitan
Borough Council

Cllr Shirley Pannell, Independent Regional Lead Peer,
North Kesteven District Council

Cllr Paul Middlebrough, Lead Regional Peer, Wychavon
District Council and Worcestershire County Council

Paul Clarke, Programme Manager (Peer Challenge),
Local Government Association

Purpose of the session

An opportunity to discuss ideas and effective approaches that have been used to deliver:

- peer challenge
- councillor development
- mentoring support.

The output from the session will be a collation of good practice and top tips that can be shared with member peers.

Peer challenge

- Prepare – Read the paperwork
 - Remember we are a critical friend (not an inspection)
 - Don't make early assumptions
 - Always triangulate the evidence
 - Work in pairs if possible (another pair of ears!)
 - Are people being open/honest or is there a script?
 - Views of partners/neighbours provide a useful insight
 - Impressions will ebb and flow over the review period
 - Keep Leader informed as things develop
 - Language in messages is important
 - Some things can only be said!
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Councillor development

- Link training and development to member role
 - Link to Council's objectives and local context
 - Identify preferred learning techniques/contexts
 - Set objectives/outcomes for the session
 - Provide materials where appropriate
 - Timetables/agendas matter to some people
 - Encourage discussion – don't just lecture!
 - Encourage shared learning – groups, pairs etc.
 - Encourage sharing of experiences
 - Use questions as a learning tool
 - Signpost further learning opportunities
 - Review learning against objectives/outcomes
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Mentoring support

- Chemistry matters – so be honest about the match up
 - Client needs to be a willing participant
 - Set objectives/outcomes at the start
 - Keep programme to a reasonable timescale
 - Mentoring/coaching/training – balance
 - Share knowledge/experience. Don't impose solutions
 - Allow time for unforeseen issues/events
 - Develop learning through questions
 - Be at the end of the phone
 - Review what you've done
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Political Group Meetings

Labour – Conference Hall

Conservative – Great Hall (in here)

Liberal Democrat – Reception Room

Independent – Committee Room 1