



Commissioning Academy 2020

Introduction

Described by Civil Service Chief Executive John Manzoni as "one of our flagship development programmes for leaders", the Commissioning Academy is designed to equip commissioners and change makers from across public services with the insight, know-how and tools to transform outcomes for the communities we serve.

The Commissioning Academy was originally established by the Cabinet Office in 2012. The virtual Commissioning Academy is delivered by the same faculty of subject-matter experts, facilitators and action-learning coaches using webinars, video-conferencing and a virtual learning environment.

We have run over 40 Commissioning Academies since 2012, and upon completing the virtual Commissioning Academy participants gain the same certificate as those who complete the National Commissioning Academy in London.

About us

The Public Service Transformation Academy (PSTA) is a certified social enterprise and not-for-profit launched in 2016 to deliver the Cabinet Office Commissioning Academy and continue the Public Service Transformation Network's knowledge sharing mission.

- The **Cabinet Office Commissioning Academy** was launched in 2012 as a unique development programme for senior leaders and change-makers from across public services.
- The **Public Service Transformation Network** was established in 2013 as a cross-Whitehall unit that partnered with local government, communities and the wider public sector to promote outcome-based delivery models.

The PSTA is a not-for-profit partnership comprising charities, social enterprises, professional networks, businesses and universities together with local, health and civil service bodies.

Our approach

Commissioning and systems transformation are inherently multi-disciplinary, and our approach to developing capability combines:

- Action – applying insight and tools to your priorities to bring learning to life, and make a difference
- Process – facilitation and coaching for experience sharing and collaborative learning
- Knowledge – stimulating insights and know-how on proven practices to spark new thinking

The learning journey

During this 15-week learning journey, you'll connect directly with Commissioning Academy Faculty, industry leaders and peers from across the UK.

Participants learn from subject-matter experts and leading practitioners and, in parallel, are supported to apply these new insights and tools to a progress a live commissioning initiative they have underway.

The virtual academy has been designed to fit around social distancing and work pressures. The Academy would be delivered in 30 bite-sized hour-long modules, two per week over 15 weeks. The presentations and live Q&A sessions with subject-matter experts will also be recorded to enable participants to review at their own pace.

The virtual Commissioning Academy combines:

- 24 video lectures and live webinars with leading commissioning thinkers and practitioners
- 4 capstone tutorials to bring together learning and actions from each of the four themes of the programme
- Q&A sessions and discussions, using the virtual learning environment
- Group coaching and action-planning facilitation over video-conferencing with members of our faculty

Modules

1. Outcomes and systems thinking
 - 1.0. Our Learning Journey
 - 1.1. Whole systems thinking
 - 1.2. Outcomes thinking
 - 1.3. Developments in commissioning
 - 1.4. Understanding value: What makes a difference?
 - 1.5. Asset-led commissioning
 - 1.6. Capstone: Bringing it together
 - 1.7. Group action learning / coaching
2. Building trust and shared understanding
 - 2.1. Commissioning in uncertain times
 - 2.2. Asset-based community development
 - 2.3. Designing systems for early help: Case study
 - 2.4. Co-production
 - 2.5. Working across boundaries
 - 2.6. Collaborative commissioning: Case study
 - 2.7. Co-commissioning for social prescribing
 - 2.8. Group action learning / coaching
3. Turning insights into outcomes
 - 3.1. Using behavioural insights
 - 3.2. Understanding behaviour change
 - 3.3. Person-centred commissioning
 - 3.4. Employing agile approaches
 - 3.5. Applying design principles
 - 3.6. Contracting for outcomes
 - 3.7. Capstone: Bringing it together
 - 3.8. Group action learning / coaching
4. Working with markets and suppliers
 - 4.1. Evaluating markets
 - 4.2. Procurement and market engagement
 - 4.3. Partnering for innovation: case study
 - 4.4. Working with commercial suppliers
 - 4.5. Working with VCSEs
 - 4.6. Developing and stewarding markets
 - 4.7. Capstone: Bringing it together

Feedback and testimonials

What do past Commissioning Academy participants say?

Ninety-eight per cent of participants surveyed report making useful connections, and nine out of ten of past participants said the offline Commissioning Academy was:

- a good or excellent use of their time
- a good or excellent value for money
- relevant or highly relevant to their learning needs
- an experience they would recommend to their colleagues and peers

Testimonials from the offline Commissioning and Transformation Academies include:

- "I have been involved in commissioning for a long time and done lots of other training courses but this has made me think about different concepts. Things like how does it look from a provider's point of view, how can we invest in our communities financially and with resources and what we need to do next, given context and the financial difficulties we all face." *Linda Uren, Director for Children & Families, Gloucestershire County Council*
- "The transformation academy has been an excellent opportunity to explore new ways of thinking and working. It was very well organised and facilitated. A truly well thought and robust programme that would benefit anyone involved in transformation both in local government and health." *Senior Transformation Lead for Integrated Care at NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group.*
- "It's a worthwhile investment. I found it a really useful experience. Coming into it with other people from your organisation, makes a big difference in terms of being able to go back into the office and think about what you've taken from each of the sessions and each of the site visits and translate that into what might you do differently within your organisation." *Mathew Kendall, Assistant Director, ASC and Health, Barnet*
- "A great programme that broadens your mind and your thinking about systems." *Head of Integration & Partnerships, Essex County Council*
- "Being in a group of like-minded peers, having conversations about needs, innovation, outcomes and transformation was hugely empowering." *Gareth Symonds, Assistant Director of Commissioning, Surrey County Council*
- "The Academy has been an absolutely wonderful learning opportunity – really enjoyable, interesting and informative. We come away from every event completely inspired and feeling very creative. It has particularly given us food for thought when mentoring our team managers and assisting them with starting new projects off and thinking about the different approaches they could take and the methodologies that they can use." *Senior Transformation Managers, North Norfolk and South Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Groups*

Fees

As a social enterprise not-for-profit, our pricing is designed to make the Academy as accessible as possible. We offer group discounts which also apply to groups comprising participants from different organisations (to encourage cross-sector working).

The standard price per participant for the offline National Commissioning Academy hosted in London is £2,200 (plus VAT).

The pricing structure for the virtual Commissioning Academy is as follows:

- £1,850 for individual participants, or
- £1,700 per person for groups of four or more

Groups can comprise participants from a single organisation or multiple organisations (to encourage collaborative working across boundaries).

Also, since the Academy is designed to directly enable commissioning initiatives, employing our "development through delivery" methodology, many organisations fund participation wholly or partly from their transformational change or project budgets, rather than from "training".

We have to add VAT (which hopefully your organisation can claim back).

There are a limited number of places available, so if your colleagues are interested and would like to discuss further, please encourage them to give Sarah Johnston, our Chief Operating Officer a call on 077010 498836 or e-mail me: david.mason@publicservicetransformation.org to register your interest.