

ADEPT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

HELPING LEAD ME TO THE NEXT LEVEL

As an aspiring Director of Place, I am grateful and relishing the opportunity of spending quality time focussing on my own advancement as part of the inaugural ADEPT Leadership Development Programme.

My learning began in February with an introduction session hosted by Luton Borough Council's interim Chief Executive Laura Church. My cohort of 14 like-minded and ambitious peers received insights about the role every individual plays in driving change and helped shape the remainder of the Programme.

In March, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's Chief Executive Alison Griffin and Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Andy Lewis shared their place leadership journeys. Using various techniques and examples, our experienced trainer from Solace emphasised the point that with a little hard work, we all have it in us to be great leaders. Introspection was encouraged, as was career planning and assembling a network who help open doors.

The May module is being hosted in Robin Hood's County. The group will hear from the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council Councillor Kay Cutts, and will draw on the experiences of Nottinghamshire's Corporate Director of Place, Adrian Smith and the Executive Director - Economy & Environment of Walsall Council, Simon Neilson.

Already my personal leadership skills are developing, helping me to achieve my professional goals and delivering results for my organisation – especially developing my approach to cross-council working. I am getting to know myself better by exploring my motivation to lead. This safe and supportive environment is testing my level of self-confidence, emotional intelligence, and other qualities that are needed to become a good leader.

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