

Infuse Innovative Future Services

Infuse Cohort Alpha Application Form Guidance

Programme dates: 4th May to 29th October 2021

Thank you for your interest in the Infuse programme.

This document sets out important information and guidance to support your full application. The application form can be found here:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6230103/InFuSe-Labs-EOI-Application>

About Infuse

Infuse is an innovation and research programme designed to build skills and capacity for innovative future public services across the Cardiff Capital Region. Infuse is supported by the European Social Fund through Welsh Government and is a collaboration between Cardiff University, Y Lab, Nesta, Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Office (CCR) and the ten local authorities that make up the region, including Monmouthshire County Council as the lead partner. The programme will be built around opportunities to tackle real-life questions, driven by the biggest challenges faced by the region.

Infuse partners and participants will identify a range of challenges or problems that are shared across the region. These might include decarbonisation, active travel, housing or social care. Using these shared challenges, we'll bring together cross-regional teams in each of the three skills areas to work towards solving a part of this challenge, using new tools and methods.

Teams will receive around three months of training and support in new skills, tools and methods, followed by three months of coaching in their own organisations as they go back to put them into practice helping to change the future of public service delivery for years to come; developing new innovation skills and capacity by tackling regional public service challenges. The programme will run until 2023, working with three cohorts of local authority and public sector workers from across the Cardiff Capital Region.

About Cohort Alpha

Join us for Cohort Alpha, a prototype ahead of the launch of Cohort One later this year where we'll explore together practical solutions in response to the two thematic questions below.

For Infuse's Cohort Alpha, we are looking for teams or individuals from across the 10 Cardiff City Region Deal areas that are enthusiastic and committed to completing the

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Infuse programme journey. Our scoring criteria is focused on testing attitudes to innovation and learning.

Application Timeline

Date	Stage
March 24th 2021	Applications open Application support available from programme team during this stage
April 19th 2021	Application window closes Deadline for submission of application form
April 22nd - 30th 2021	Assessment, selection and notice to successful candidates Suitability and eligibility of applications for Infuse scored and successful candidates informed

Guidance on completing the application

Selection Criteria - What we are looking for

We are looking for a cohort of managers, leaders and future leaders who are problem solvers. The aim of this programme is to build innovation expertise in Wales' public services and support new models of service delivery. Applicants should have a passion for experimentation, a good mix of some of the following skills and attitudes, and a willingness to develop the rest.

Our aim is to be **fair and transparent** in our decision making process, and to assess applications consistently, based on the information we've asked applicants to provide.

How applications will be scored

It's important that you read and respond to the questions in the application form carefully, as your answers will be scored by our decision panel to establish the strength of your application in three key areas:

- a. Working together: Understanding the value of teamwork, and ability to work well with others to deliver
- b. Leading change: Can make change happen, big or small
- c. Accelerating learning: Wants to learn and is self-motivated and committed

Other factors the panel will consider in selecting teams and individuals to join the Infuse programme:

- d. Applicants show commitment and self-motivation
- e. Applicants are open-minded and prepared to try out new things

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- f. Applicants are feeling ready for it - the programme will work best if you have personal experiences to draw on and are keen to re-assess and plan your next steps
- g. Applicants are supportive of others
- h. Applicants are keen to develop to their fullest potential
- i. Applicants have felt, or are feeling tired and stuck and need to refresh and replenish
- j. Applicants are enthusiastic about building new relationships and
- k. Can devote up to 2 days a week to the programme

We are looking for **concise answers** on each of the questions. Please take note of the suggested maximum word counts for each answer (350 words per question), it may help to respond in bullet points and paragraphs rather than longer narrative answers.

Infuse Themes

As part of your application you are asked which theme you would like to focus on;

1. Accelerating Decarbonisation: Q: What does it mean to declare a Climate Change Emergency? or

2. Supportive Communities: What are the New Operating models for Local Authorities post-COVID?

Having a clear preference, or, no preference on this question will not affect your application score, this question is for information purposes and does not form part of Infuse's selection criteria.

Eligibility - Who can participate

Applications are welcomed from managers, leaders and future leaders who are problem solvers working in the 10 local authorities that comprise the Cardiff Capital Region: Blaenau Gwent; Bridgend; Caerphilly; Cardiff; Merthyr Tydfil; Monmouthshire; Newport; Rhondda Cynon Taff; Torfaen; and Vale of Glamorgan.

What will happen next?

Once the full applications have been received, a panel of carefully selected public service innovators and experts will review your application. The panel is made up of representatives from:

- Monmouthshire County Council
- Cardiff University
- Nesta
- WEFO

Panelists will be invited to read and score applications. These will be reviewed at a meeting with all panelists, where we will select a cohort based on their scores.

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You will hear from us with a decision by Wed 28th April 2021.

Cohort Alpha's learning programme commences on May 4th 2021

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss any of the above please contact Infuse@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Thank you

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