

Infuse Innovative Future Services

Infuse Participant description

Location: Online
Term: 6 months - 4th May to 29th October 2021
Hours: 2 days a week [1 day face-to-face / 1 day self-directed learning]
Outcomes: Stronger innovation skills and accelerated change
Application form: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6230103/InFuSe-Labs-EOI-Application>
Deadline for applications: 19/4/21

Infuse, a new programme designed to build skills and capacity for innovative future public services is looking for applicants from across the 10 local authorities making up the Cardiff City Region, who can work together to lead change and accelerate learning from practical public innovation projects.

We will support public servants from the 10 local authorities to recover from the difficulties of the COVID pandemic, while developing new capacities to build back better, making the most of the learnings from the past year.

The programme will take a 'learning while doing' approach focusing on one of two themes: 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?

Programme description

Infuse (Innovative Future Services) is a new European Social Fund Priority 5 funded initiative to build innovation skills and capacity in public services across the Cardiff Capital Region. In doing so, we will ensure that public services (including the public, private and third sectors that deliver them) are equipped to tackle the significant societal challenges that exist now and in the future. Focusing on experimentation, better use of data and more innovative forms of procurement, the programme will support teams to develop new skills while working together to tackle region-wide problems and challenges.

Infuse is a partnership between the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Monmouthshire County Council, and Y Lab (Nesta and Cardiff University).

Skills specification

We are looking for a cohort of managers, leaders and future leaders who are problem solvers. 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:

Working together

- Experience of actively involving citizens and stakeholders in developing work
- Ability to creatively process different perspectives and consider multiple options
- Ability to collaborate to find common ground and create shared ownership
- Experience of working in partnership with multiple stakeholders

Lead Change

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- Ability to provide strategic support in political and bureaucratic environments
- Understanding of the many ways to liberate, mobilise and use financial resources
- Experience of being proactive and using business acumen to create opportunities
- Ability to make the case for change by articulating the value of it
- Ability to use compelling stories to articulate a vision or information

Accelerating Learning

- Ability to connect long-term vision with short-term actions
- Experience of testing ideas and systematically improving them
- Experience of using different kinds of data effectively to accelerate understanding
- Able to combine short and long term perspectives to grasp complexity
- Understanding of tech developments and their potential

Applicants will get the most out of this programme if they are:

- Committed and self-motivated
- Open-minded and prepared to try out new things
- 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
- Supportive of others
- Keen to develop to your fullest potential
- Feeling stuck or need to refresh and replenish - the programme will help re-energise and revitalise tired public servants
- Enthusiastic about building new relationships and
- Can devote up to 2 days a week to the programme

Benefits to applicants

The programme of learning across Infuse' three labs will give participants knowledge, experience and the chance to implement new skills in:

- How to adapt ideas from elsewhere using experimentation to test and iterate them for local contexts.
- Better use of data for informed decision making
- Procuring innovation; reviewing and innovating procurement processes

How to participate

The programme will be delivered remotely. Joining instructions will be sent to successful applicants along with a timetable and learning materials

A mix of learning approaches will be used including self-directed and cohort learning:

Month 1-3 (May-July)	Month 3-4 (July-Aug)	Month 5-6 (Sept-Oct)
Learning	Development, testing & coaching	Reflection and refinement

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Tuesdays: ½ a day of learning with the whole cohort Thursdays: ½ a day of learning and reflection within your theme Plus 1 day of self-directed learning and project work, done at your own pace	1 hour coaching session per week Support to develop your idea and test it out. Around two days each week working on this	Tuesdays: ½ a day of learning with the whole cohort Thursdays: ½ a day of learning and reflection within your theme Plus 1 day of self-directed learning and work focused on how you take either your idea or the lessons from your idea forward
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Cost

There is no monetary cost to participants for participating in the programme. Sign off from your manager or senior leader will be required, we encourage applicants to discuss fully and frankly the time requirement involved in participating in Infuse, and to identify a clear way to ensure that your time will be protected, e.g. through a secondment opportunity.

How to apply

Please complete the form here by 19/4/21:

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

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

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. The programme will be built around opportunities to tackle real-life questions, driven by the biggest challenges faced by the region.

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