

## A new forum for leaders who are working to create better outcomes for children and young people in Bristol

Starting in September 2009, **nexus bristol** is a free leadership forum providing regular seminars, dialogue and workshops as opportunities to identify, reflect on and tackle current challenges in Bristol as well as share experience and models of success.

**nexus bristol** is based on the principle that together we can access more diverse and creative thinking, and find relevant and sustainable solutions to collective challenges.

This is for you if you are a current or future leader with an interest in creating better outcomes for children and young people in Bristol. For example you may be a leader within education, the police, health, a community organisation, or children and young people's services.



# Autumn Term 2009

## Building a vision for Bristol: a dialogue with Annie Hudson

Tuesday September 15th - 5.00 – 7.30 pm

What would excellent children's services in Bristol really look like? Much has been said about the integration of provision and 'joined up' services, but what does that mean for Bristol? This evening presents an opportunity for leaders from agencies and institutions across the city who are working to create better outcomes for children to explore the following questions collectively:

- What do excellent children's services look like and what does that mean for Bristol?
- What is our learning from the past, and how can we build on best practice locally and nationally?
- What are the key priorities for the future?

Annie Hudson, Director of Children's Services, who was appointed in May 2009 will lead the session by presenting her reflections on her first few months in post, together with the overall vision for the way forward, and the leadership challenges this may present.

**Venue:** The Garden Room, The Clifton Pavilion, Bristol Zoo, College Road, Bristol, BS8 3HA  
**Venue details:** [www.bristolzoo.org.uk](http://www.bristolzoo.org.uk)  
**To book:** contact: [mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk)

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## New patterns of provision, new models of leadership

Wednesday November 11th - 5.00 – 7.30 pm

This event provides an opportunity to share your perspective with other leaders across the city in response to the question, 'What might leadership look like in the context of changing children's services and the emergence of new patterns of provision?' This evening will focus on issues such as the emergence of new leadership roles, leading with and through collaboration, changing structures, and the blurring of boundaries. Participants will be invited to share their thinking and experience on what leadership approaches are needed to take us forward.

**Venue:** Venue: Circomedia, St Paul's Church, Portland Square, Bristol, BS2 8SJ  
**Venue details:** [www.circomedia.com](http://www.circomedia.com)  
**To book:** contact: [mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk)  
**Facilitated by:** Common Purpose - [www.commonpurpose.org.uk](http://www.commonpurpose.org.uk)

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## The tensions and challenges of collaborating in the context of uncertainty and change

Thursday December 10th - 5.00 – 7.30 pm

This experiential workshop will provide a framework for effective collaboration during periods of change and uncertainty, drawing on recent research into collaboration and the latest thinking on leadership and complexity science. There will be opportunity to share and reflect on experiences of collaboration within your own context as well as within the wider context of inter-agency working in Bristol. You will gain practical skills in identifying natural coalitions and areas of shared interest, and in designing 'strategies for success'. The role of culture will be explored, and you will gain a clear and practical understanding of how to create synergy and build stronger relationships and connectivity.

**Venue:** Graduate School of Education, University of Bristol, 35 Berkeley Square, Bristol, BS8 1JA  
**Venue details:** [www.bris.ac.uk/education/contact](http://www.bris.ac.uk/education/contact)  
**To book:** contact: [mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk)  
**Led by:** Mike Jones, Open Minds. [www.openminds.org.uk](http://www.openminds.org.uk)

# Spring Term 2010

## Embracing chaos: learning from cardiac surgery and Chernobyl

Tuesday January 19th, 2010 - 5.00 – 7.30

Where do we find our security in times of uncertainty and change? What are the implications of this in our roles as leaders? Using stories and case studies from cardiac surgery and Chernobyl, this workshop provides an opportunity to understand your own and others' basic needs in times of turbulence and chaos. There will be an opportunity to consider what this means in the context of inter-agency collaboration and your own leadership practice. As well as exploring the idea of being 'comfortably out of control', you will gain a practical understanding of the leader's role in helping to co-create a secure environment.

**Venue:** The Street Café, School of Education 'S' block, University of the West of England (UWE), Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY  
**Venue details:** [www.uwe.ac.uk/maps/frenchay\\_map.shtml](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/maps/frenchay_map.shtml)  
Parking: Please collect car parking tokens from the Visitors' Reception (Main Gatehouse)  
**To book:** contact: [mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk)  
**Led by:** Tim Harle, Working through Change. [www.timharle.net](http://www.timharle.net)

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## Hot topics, burning issues

Wednesday February 24th, 2010 - 5.00 – 7.30

This evening provides an opportunity to surface and engage with the current topics, burning issues, or models of success that are being tackled by participants. If there is something you want to bring up for discussion, this evening will offer you the chance to do so. This will be an active and high energy evening in which multiple conversations will be hosted simultaneously and you will be invited to choose which issues you most want to contribute to. You will be encouraged to move from conversation to conversation to access the wisdom in the room, and contribute something relevant from your own leadership practice in relation to the wider context of Bristol. This event will help to identify shared challenges and promote inter-agency collaboration. The issues identified will be used to inform the content of future events.

**Venue:** Secondary School Reception, Bridge Learning Campus, Bishport Avenue, Hartcliffe, Bristol, BS13 0RH  
**Venue details:** [www.bridgelearningcampus.org.uk](http://www.bridgelearningcampus.org.uk)  
Parking: Secondary School Car Park  
**To book:** contact: [mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk)  
**Facilitated by:** Common Purpose. [www.commonpurpose.org.uk](http://www.commonpurpose.org.uk)

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## What would you do in my shoes?

Tuesday March 30th, 2010 - 5.00 – 7.30 pm

This workshop provides an opportunity to engage with the challenges and conflict, ethics and complex decision-making processes that are central to the leadership role. Using two case studies, both looking at leading and managing change, this session will present a range of real-life challenges confronted by Bristol leaders working within and across the Cabot Learning Federation. You will be able not only to work through a number of dilemmas with other participants, but also understand the decision that was actually taken, the reasoning for it, and the long term impact. The conclusion will look at the learning for those involved, and the types of leadership styles and solutions that were needed. There will be an opportunity to reflect on these issues in relation to your own leadership practice as well as the wider context of Bristol as a whole.

Please note that there will be some pre-reading for this session. You are therefore asked to register your interest by Friday March 19th at the latest.

**Venue:** Reception Room, Great Hall, Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RJ  
**Venue details:** [www.bristol.ac.uk/university/maps/precinct.html](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/university/maps/precinct.html)  
**To book:** contact: [mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:mary.oconnell@bristol.ac.uk)  
**Led by:** David Carter, Executive Principal of the Cabot Learning Federation

# Summer Term 2010

## Proposed content:

### **What can we learn from other sectors and industries?**

A panel of various leaders from industry will discuss how they have tackled the challenge of collaboration in order to deliver measurable improvements for the customer.

### **Content driven by participants:**

A response to one or more core themes and issues identified throughout the Autumn and Spring term.

### **Inspiring change and collaboration:**

Guest speaker

### **Stories of success:**

Highlighting and acknowledging what is working well across the city, and what can be carried forward beyond the end of the programme.

*Please let us know if you would like to see specific content offered, or have an idea that you would like to present.*

## What will I gain?

You will have many opportunities to actively network, engage and collectively problem solve with other leaders across Bristol who share a vision and interest in finding sustainable solutions to the challenges involved in improving outcomes for children and young people.

The events on offer provide experiential understanding of the latest thinking and research on collaborative models of leadership, and are designed to foster contribution, participation and engagement between participants.

Each session will provide an opportunity to reflect on what action you can take in the context of your own leadership practice as well as the wider system across Bristol. As the programme progresses, the content of what's on offer will evolve in response to the needs and priorities of participants.

## Do I need to attend all of the events?

The programme starting in September 2009 is designed to provide continuity and progression. However, you can attend all or any of the events according to your diary and interests.

## How much does it cost?

Nothing. All of the events are being sponsored by the University of Bristol, local businesses, the local authority and schools.

## How do I secure a place?

Numbers are restricted according to venues, and places are offered on a first come first served basis. Please register in advance for the events that you want to be part of.

nexus bristol is an initiative of the University of Bristol



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