



Young Local Government Programme 2009

**Developing talent
in the workplace**

October 2009



About the programme

The Young Local Government Programme brings together new talent working in local authorities throughout England and Wales for an intensive three-day course. The 2009 programme will be our fourth annual event and will be held in Lancaster in October.

This exciting initiative is part of the Young UK and Ireland Programme, which aims to stretch the minds, broaden the horizons and develop the communication skills and confidence of people who have left full-time education and are in the early years of their working lives.



Although the minimum age for entry on the programme is 18, there is no upper age limit: delegates may be young in years, or in terms of professional development, or both. People who have come late to a career, for example, are positively encouraged irrespective of age.

A vital part of the programme is the presentation by each delegate of a 900-word paper ("Argument") on a topic – of the delegate's choice – "of current interest or controversy". Researched and written in advance, the paper is presented and adjudicated during the course. See opposite for more information.



Argument is a competitive part of the programme but there are also debates on the hot issues of the moment, in-depth group discussions, and guest speakers – all adding up to a rich and unique experience.

Each delegate who completes the course receives a certificate – in recognition of an outstanding achievement.

In addition, the title **Local Government Young Thinker of the Year** is awarded to a delegate on the final evening. A runner-up is also announced. The award is made mainly on the basis of the Argument paper. The winner will go forward to the 2009-10 finals of the Young UK and Ireland Programme, joining representatives taking part in the season's other courses in England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The costs of the winner's participation in the final (with the exception of travel) are met by the organisers.



By nominating a member or members of your staff for the programme, you will:

- ❖ enhance their professional development
- ❖ encourage them to make the best use of their interpersonal skills
- ❖ help develop their written and verbal communication and their research capabilities
- ❖ enable them to benefit from fresh ideas and creativity
- ❖ give them an opportunity to compete for a prestigious title

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Where

Lancaster House Hotel
Green Lane
Ellel
Lancaster LA1 4GJ
www.elh.co.uk/hotels/lancaster
The venue for the programme is a modern and beautiful 4-star hotel in a rural setting south of the historic city of Lancaster. The hotel's leisure facilities include a swimming pool, sauna, solarium and gym. Lancaster House is close to the M6 and around 10 minutes by taxi from Lancaster railway station on the main West Coast line.

When

Delegates arrive in Lancaster in the early afternoon of Monday 5 October and check-out after breakfast on Thursday 8 October.

Enrolment fee

£900 plus VAT per delegate, inclusive of accommodation (single room occupancy) for three nights plus all meals. Travel costs and arrangements for travel to and from the venue are the responsibility of the delegates or their employers.

Who's eligible

People aged 18 or over who are working in local government and who are considered by their employers to be in the early stages of their careers. There is no upper age limit.

Closing date for registration

Tuesday 1 September 2009.

How to register

Simply complete the form on the next page – or book online at www.youngprogramme.org Information packs including advice and full details of the event will be e-mailed to delegates on Tuesday 1 September.

Key elements

Delegates arrive in Lancaster in the early afternoon of Monday 5 October. The programme continues for the next two intensive days and ends with the awards dinner on Wednesday 7 October. Delegates check-out on Thursday morning. Main features of the course:

Argument

Before the programme, each delegate submits a paper ("Argument") of around 900 words – six minutes when spoken – on a subject of his or her choice. The only stipulation is that the paper should be on an issue of current interest or controversy, not necessarily related to the delegate's work or professional discipline.

Advice on writing the paper is given to all delegates in advance and a copy of the paper must be submitted by Thursday 24 September.

All the papers are heard during the course and expert tuition on presentation is offered.

The Group Challenge

Delegates are divided into small discussion groups and

allocated a question prompted by current events. The groups are given an hour to prepare an informal presentation.

Yes, No, Don't Know

Lively, sometimes heated, debates are among the most popular features of the course. At the start of each debate, delegates are asked to vote "yes", "no" or "don't know" to a controversial question. The question is debated for an hour. Then a second vote is taken – how many minds have been changed by the discussion?

On The Spot

A test of delegates' ability to deliver a speech unscripted. The brief: to ask themselves a question on a subject of their choice – philosophical, political, ethical, spiritual or personal – and then answer it without notes in as close to three minutes as possible!

Testimony

People with an extraordinary story to tell share the experiences which have helped to shape their lives.



Opposite from the top: delegates are given an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the lectern and receive expert advice before presenting their papers; a group prepares for the Group Challenge session; Sarah Griffiths, Local Government Young Thinker of the Year 2008; a moment of relaxation at Lancaster House Hotel. Above: a group picture on the final day at a recent programme.



Registration form

Young Local Government Programme 5–8 October 2009: Lancaster

Return by fax: 01563 549503

or

Return by post: Young UK & Ireland Programme, 66 John Finnie Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1BS

or

Book online: www.youngprogramme.org

Closing date for registration: Tuesday 1 September 2009

Please enrol our local authority in the above event

We wish to place _____ delegate/delegates at a cost of £900 plus VAT per delegate

Name/s of delegate/s stated below/to follow (delete as applicable)

We understand that:

our delegate/s will take part in the programme at Lancaster House Hotel, Lancaster, from 5 to 7 October 2009, checking out of the hotel on the morning of Thursday 8 October

name/s of our delegate/s must be supplied no later than Tuesday 1 September 2009

our delegate/s will receive an information pack including guidance, advice on preparing the Argument paper, and rules on Tuesday 1 September 2009

payment is due no later than Monday 28 September 2009. Please invoice us

travel costs and arrangements will be met/made by our delegate/s or by our organisation

Contact name _____ Post held _____

Local authority _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Contact telephone no. _____ e-mail _____

Name/s of delegate/s (if known) _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Order no. (if any) _____