

2009/10

# Advanced Commissioning Course



## Developing capability for world class commissioning

The university accredited national programme for clinicians and managers to develop skills and capability for world class commissioning in the NHS

Supported by:



# Advanced Commissioning Course 2009/10

Following two successful years of the acclaimed Advanced Commissioning Course the Improvement Foundation are running a 2009/10 course. Learning from 2007/08 and 2008/09 has been built into the 2009/10 programme.

## What will I learn?

- ▶ An in-depth understanding of NHS and joint NHS/social care commissioning
- ▶ How commissioning is able to drive up quality and improve health outcomes for the population
- ▶ Practical application of the commissioning cycle through coursework in a chosen area
- ▶ Up-to-date knowledge about best commissioning practice
- ▶ Competencies for world class commissioning
- ▶ Current and future direction of policy directly from the policy makers themselves

## Features of the course

- ▶ An opportunity to network with up to 200 commissioning professionals nationally
- ▶ A university accredited course over 15 months
- ▶ Curriculum linked to world class commissioning competencies and the commissioning cycle
- ▶ A practical skills-based approach linked to the workplace
- ▶ Training for managers and clinicians together
- ▶ National masterclasses complemented by regional learning groups
- ▶ Supported by the Department of Health and a network of organisations
- ▶ Strengthening capability for world class commissioning

## How will this course benefit my organisation?

It can:

- ▶ Help develop your organisation's world class commissioning capability
- ▶ Provide an opportunity to link coursework with your organisation's priorities
- ▶ Enable learning from other organisations, formally and informally, as part of a national network

## Structure of the course

The programme involves candidates working on three modules over a period of 15 months.

- ▶ Module 1 - Strategic planning for commissioning
- ▶ Module 2 - Practical commissioning
- ▶ Module 3 - Managing performance and impact

A written assignment is required at the end of each module for successful completion of the course. Participants may opt to have their work assessed by the University of Teesside to obtain a postgraduate certificate.

The programme has been designed so that the work requirements for successful completion of each stage match the academic assessment. Individual modules cannot be undertaken outside the whole programme of study.

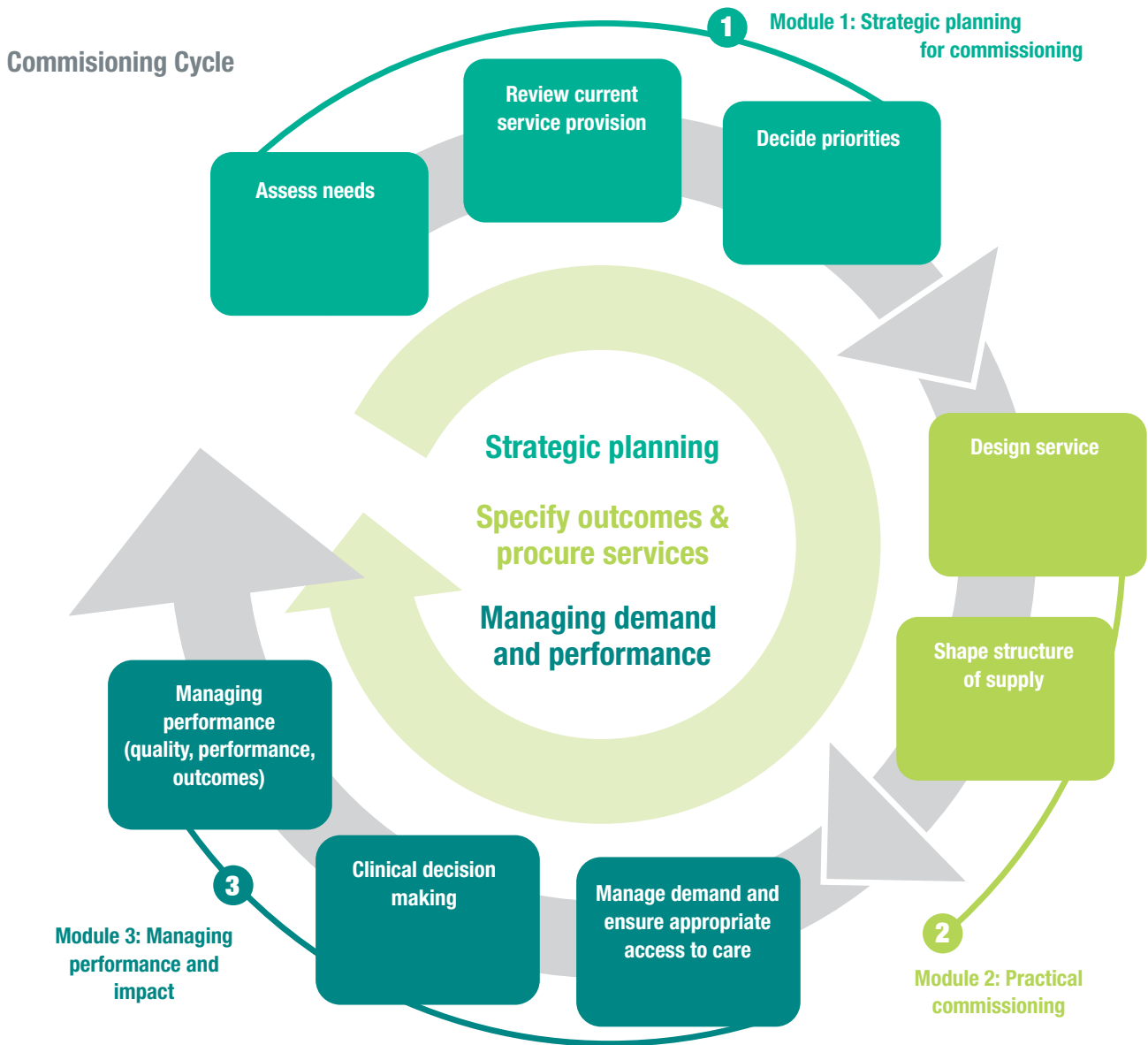
## About the Improvement Foundation

The Improvement Foundation is the foremost improvement organisation in the UK committed to improving public services. Central to this objective is supporting the development of commissioning skills to ensure improvement of patient outcomes and service delivery in the NHS. The Improvement Foundation has a nine year track record of delivering improvement in the NHS and worldwide, and currently runs a range of programmes. Details of all Improvement Foundation programmes can be obtained from our website: [www.improvementfoundation.org](http://www.improvementfoundation.org)

## Course delivery model

The course content will be delivered through national learning events, complemented by regionally coordinated learning groups and the University of Teesside's online virtual learning environment, Blackboard.

The six two-day national learning events each include 12 hours of teaching delivered through masterclasses, interactive sessions and lectures. The four facilitated one-day regional learning groups are coordinated at strategic health authority level and include facilitation by the programme delivery team. This structure allows participants to integrate learning in the local context, including the opportunity to continue to develop as a local network of commissioning expertise for the strategic health authority area.



| World Class Commissioning competency |                                    | Module 1: Strategic planning for commissioning | Module 2: Practical commissioning | Module 3: Managing performance and impact |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1                                    | Locally lead the NHS               | ←  |                                   | →   |
| 2                                    | Work with community partners       | ←  |                                   | →   |
| 3                                    | Engage with public and patients    | ←  |                                   | →   |
| 4                                    | Collaborate with clinicians        | ←  |                                   | →   |
| 5                                    | Manage knowledge and assess needs  | ←  | →                                 |   |
| 6                                    | Prioritise investment              | ←  | →                                 |   |
| 7                                    | Stimulate the market               |  | ←                                 | →   |
| 8                                    | Promote improvement and innovation |  | ←                                 | →   |
| 9                                    | Secure procurement skills          |  | ←                                 | →   |
| 10                                   | Manage the local health system     |  |                                   | ←   |
| 11                                   | Make sound financial investments   |  | ←                                 | →   |

## Application criteria

Applicants should normally be working in a role that involves commissioning NHS or joint NHS and social care services. Other applicants are welcome subject to a discussion with the course lead.

The programme will aim to recruit both clinical and managerial participants.

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how their participation in the course will enhance the overall commissioning capability of their locality.

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to completing all elements of the programme and be able to work at postgraduate level.

## Application process

Applications for the 2009/10 course are being accepted through the Improvement Foundation website: [www.improvementfoundation.org/ac](http://www.improvementfoundation.org/ac)

For an informal discussion about entry to the course please contact a member of the Commissioning Support Team (contact details can be found on the last page of this prospectus).

## Time commitment

The time commitment away from your work place is a minimum of 17 days over a 15 month period. Each teaching day (national masterclasses and regional learning groups) will include six hours of taught time. Additional personal study time and work place learning will be required to complete the course assignments. Applicants are encouraged to speak to people who have already completed the course to understand the time commitment required.

National learning events will be held in accessible central locations. With the exception of the first event (which will require an additional overnight stay), each of the two-day national learning events will start at 11am on day one and finish at 3pm on day two, to allow participants time to travel. Regional learning group meetings will be held in regional locations.

## Fees

Course fees remain at 2008 prices: £4,650 + VAT for participants from the public and third sector and £7,150 + VAT for private sector organisations.

What is included:

- ▶ National and regional learning events as described in the course outline
- ▶ All learning materials and ongoing learning support
- ▶ Lunch and dinner at course events
- ▶ University accreditation costs for those registering for the postgraduate certificate
- ▶ Assessment of written work and access to University of Teesside facilities (including online Blackboard) for those registering for the postgraduate certificate

What is **not** included:

- ▶ Travel and accommodation costs
- ▶ Funding for backfill or locum costs

## Accreditation

The programme will be accredited by the University of Teesside at postgraduate certificate level (60 Masters level credits). These credits can be used towards a full Masters award at the University of Teesside and may be accepted by other universities through their Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) scheme.

Participants who can demonstrate that they have already undertaken related study or project work in this area will be considered for APL and therefore may be exempt from submitting their work for assessment in certain modules.

# Participant Case Studies

## CASE STUDY 1

**Laura Sherburn**

**Head of Urgent Care Commissioning, Leeds PCT**

*I wanted a qualification specific to commissioning, something tangible to help me with real issues that I encounter on a daily basis and tailored specifically to commissioning in the health service.*



I was attracted to the structure of the Advanced Commissioning programme, with national events which are great for networking, but also regional meetings with smaller numbers, giving the opportunity to consolidate learning, ask follow-up questions, and debate the issues in more detail.

### Since doing the programme

The programme has certainly given me more confidence as a commissioner. It has dealt with each area of the commissioning cycle and I feel that this has equipped me to 'think outside of the box' when addressing daily challenges.

I hope the formal qualification will show I'm serious about the role of a commissioner and that I understand its significance in the current healthcare system.

## CASE STUDY 2

**Dr John Howarth**

**General Practitioner, Cockermouth (in Cumbria) and Vice Chair of a locality PBC Group. Currently seconded full time to Cumbria PCT to lead the reorganisation of care for the elderly and the redevelopment of 14 community hospitals in Cumbria**

*The Advanced Commissioning Course far exceeded my expectations. I can honestly say this is one of the best quality training programmes I have been on in the last 25 years.*



Like many GPs who have become involved in PBC, I was acutely aware of my skills and knowledge gap. Doctors are not trained to do this role yet we often take the lead in managing large budgets and complex commissioning decisions. Structured and comprehensive training in advanced commissioning seemed well suited to my needs.

The course is stimulating, challenging, thought provoking with high quality presenters. Many of the topics covered such as negotiating or social marketing will be useful in other areas of my work. An unexpected bonus is the regional support network formed from colleagues on the course which I expect will continue for years to come. It is a significant commitment in time and effort but the rewards are well worth it and it is really enjoyable.

# Comments from participants on previous Advanced Commissioning Courses

“ The Advanced Commissioning Course has high quality speakers, very relevant topics and useful presentations. It fits well with our busy working lives and is a must for all current and aspiring commissioners. ”

**Consultant in Public Health Medicine**



“ The Advanced Commissioning Course has supported me as a commissioner by offering tools and techniques and guiding and forming my often intuitive common sense into firm principles of good practice. ”

**Commissioner, Planned Care**

“ The course has created and heightened awareness especially as a PBC GP commissioner. ”

**General Practitioner**

“ Fantastic opportunity to network with like-minded people with protected learning time. About time a decent commissioning course was put on. Well done. ”

**PBC Lead**

“ During the course you will hear from those making the policy you need to work to, and will hear from and discuss with national commissioning experts how best to move your area of work forward towards world class commissioning. I have found myself naturally using a range of commissioning tools when negotiating with providers, giving the best chance of improving patient outcomes. ”

**Head of Commissioning - Children's and Maternity**

“ Brilliant - it has helped me focus on the tasks I have in hand and on the challenges. ”

**Specialist Commissioner**

“ This has been so valuable, really high in 'take back to work' value and provided some real tools that will take commissioning from the ark to suburbia. ”

**Commissioning Manager**

## For more information contact:

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