

## So you want to organise a National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL) Cluster programme in your area?



### The National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL)

NPQSL is aimed at experienced team leaders with wider responsibilities traditionally associated with senior leadership roles. It is suitable for deputy or assistant heads, SENCOs and advanced skills teachers, experienced middle leaders who are ambitious for and seeking promotion to a senior leadership role and senior leaders looking for further professional development but not yet aspiring to headship. It is also suitable for senior leaders working in schools and academies who are not qualified teachers, for example bursars and HR officers.

The National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL) is a national qualification that provides recognition of your leadership development and professional achievement as a senior leader. Leadership East has successfully run this qualification since it began in 2012. Leadership East holds a license to provide the qualification now, and will continue to provide it post 2016 when the National College remit changes.

The curriculum currently has three levels, with each level offering a choice of modules that can be combined to pursue a nationally recognised qualification (levels one to three) or studied alone.

NPQSL sits at level two of the modular curriculum. It is designed to support participants in becoming highly effective senior leaders with the skills, confidence and knowledge to contribute to the strategic development of the school or organisation as part of the senior leadership team.

To achieve the qualification, participants will need to complete two essential modules ('Succeeding in senior leadership' and 'Closing the gap') and two elective modules chosen from a wide range of options.

- All modules reflect the recent and significant changes in schools and national policy.
- The modules provide access to a wide set of high quality leadership resources to challenge and support participants.
- As a national qualification, NPQSL may be used to contribute towards Master's Level Study at a number of universities across the country.

Some participants applying to join the NPQSL programme may have already completed the National College Leadership Pathways programme. If so, he or she may be entitled to an exemption of one elective module at Level 2. School leaders who have successfully completed a post-graduate certificate in further professional study (not PGCE), diploma or higher degree in educational leadership can request exemption from one elective module. In practice this will mean the participant will only need to complete the 2 essential modules and 1 elective module in order to move forward to assessment. However, since the participant will have access to the second elective module, we regret there can be no reduction in cost if an exemption is claimed.

### Leadership East

Leadership East is a partnership of schools and educational organisations. Leadership East is keen to work with schools to ensure that teachers can access these programmes and will support schools in delivering these programmes by providing:

- Administrative and organisational support.
- Access to the National College modular framework, resources and materials.
- The booking and contracting of facilitators, where necessary.
- Training and assessment of facilitators, where necessary.
- Quality assurance of the programme and facilitators.

## **Organising a local programme**

Although Leadership East will organise and deliver the programme in a number of places, it is recognised that many schools will wish to organise and deliver the programme on a local basis, perhaps using their own facilitators and venues. Organisations might, for example, include a teaching school and its partners, a chain of academies or a consortium or pyramid of schools within a locality. Organisations can work with Leadership East to deliver the programmes in a more localised way. Under the NCTL licensing system schools cannot deliver these programmes independently but must work with a NCTL licence holder.

The level of support, organisations require from Leadership East can be discussed and arranged to meet a particular group's needs.

Leadership East will manage the registration process of participants via an online form and in a continuing dialogue with organisations, help and support the running of the programme.

## **When would the programme start?**

This would be a matter for the schools themselves though programmes usually begin in September/October and again in January/February. When planning dates, consideration needs to be given to the length of the programme. Leadership East recommends that the programme runs over a year to allow participants time to undertake the modules and assessment tasks. Participants must go to assessment within 18 months of beginning the programme.

## **Where would it be held?**

Schools may source a suitable venue for a local programme, which could be one of the participant schools, but availability for the daytime face-to-face sessions needs to be borne in mind.

## **Facilitation**

Leadership East have a database of facilitators trained to deliver the NPQML programme. If schools prefer to use their own staff as facilitators they must have attended Leadership East training. We actively encourage school leaders to train as facilitators for both NPQML and NPQSL. Training sessions can be arranged to suit your needs. This may involve attendance at a session/s with other new cluster groups. Or on-site training by our lead facilitator. All facilitators will be encouraged to develop their skills through a quality assurance programme.

## **Venues**

Under this scheme, the organising school is responsible for arranging a suitable venue where the face to face sessions can be held, in exceptional circumstances, Leadership East can assist in sourcing a venue. There are no venue costs included in the prices quoted below and also no refreshment costs, since every group will have its own preferences. Both of these costs may need to be factored into the final price charged to the participants.

## **The Cost**

The cost below is based on a minimum group size of 10 participants and does not take into account any scholarships. It includes provision of the following:

- A combination of full face to face days and twilight sessions.
- Use of a 360 degree leadership diagnostic development tool 1 at the beginning of the programme and 1 at the end.
- Access to the National College Level 2 essential and elective modules.
- Facilitation of online learning.
- Provision of one accredited facilitator for up to 15 participants, and two facilitators for groups of 16 or more. Facilitators will be paid a pro-rata rate of £350 per day but where facilitators undertake the work as part of their school role at no cost, the fee(s) will be repaid to the lead school allowing it, if desired, to reduce the cost to each participant or use the money to support CPD costs. Where schools wish to have two facilitators with a group below 16 they will need to fund the second facilitator themselves or alternatively an additional charge can be made if a Leadership East facilitator from our central database is required.
- The Final Assessment

**Level 2 - The NPQSL Qualification - £995 per participant.**

**I want to go ahead – what do I need to do?**

Contact us at Leadership East, where we can discuss the needs of your organisation.

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