



Civil Service
Local

Civil Service Local East, South East and London



Contents

	Page
Foreword	3
Our Offer	4
Connect	5
Capability	6
Citizens	7

Foreword

Civil Service Local (CS Local) is a small team, part of the Cabinet Office, working across all government departments.

Our purpose is to work collaboratively and bring together departments and agencies at a local level to realise the Civil Service Blueprint 2020 vision of a great place to work.

Our role is to be a catalyst that helps unify the Civil Service from the bottom up, providing the creative spark and energy that helps to drive forward reform, forge links and establish the trust that allows us to develop new ideas with our peers and trial better ways of working together.

We place a particular emphasis upon strengthening the shared identity of the Civil Service and reaching out to those who are not based in Whitehall seeking out ways we can improve engagement, capability and efficiency that results in an inclusive, modern, connected workforce.

Our work programme focusses only upon those aspects that we are best placed to deliver. In this way we complement but do not duplicate departmental business. In practice these are elements that benefit from a cross departmental perspective and local delivery such as building strong corporate leadership, local engagement and improved capability.

Civil Service Local East, South East and London (ESEL)

Whether it's personal and professional development, learning about the Civil Service in your area, picking up tips for your business unit, meeting new colleagues in other departments, or sourcing new skills to improve the services we deliver to citizens; we hope Civil Service Local has something for you.

CS Local - The Civil Service but not as you know it.

Activities are advertised on the relevant area pages of our blog - <https://civilservicelocal.blog.gov.uk/> and/or in our monthly bulletin. Contact one of us to sign up for an event or be added to the mailing list for our monthly bulletin.

ian.barton@csresourcing.gsi.gov.uk

susan.coles2@csresourcing.gsi.gov.uk

nafesa.salah-ud-din@csresourcing.gsi.gov.uk

Civil Service Local is committed to ensuring that wherever possible our activities are accessible to all participants. If you have any specific requirements that will enable you to fully participate, please let us know and we will endeavour to make any reasonable adjustments.

We are interested in people, their skills, passion and enthusiasm, not their grade. If you're interested in something and would like to be involved, contact us and we'll do our best to find something for you.

Our Offer

This document outlines our activities, the opportunities and some of the benefits of participating.

There are lots of ways to get involved depending on how much of a commitment you can make, the skills you have or want to learn, and whether your department is willing to support your time commitment and travel costs. Opportunities range from attending quick bite-size learning sessions to longer term programmes and events or you could be part of the team for a few days each month.

We have something to suit everyone so keep checking the relevant area page on our [blog](#) for the latest opportunities.

Our activities are divided between the following categories, but there is a high amount of overlap between them.



Connect

- facilitating opportunities for civil servants from different departments to network, share ideas, knowledge and skills to promote a unified Civil Service that is inclusive, flexible, modern and connected.



Capability

- facilitating activities designed to make sure our people are high performing, adaptable and take personal responsibility and our leaders are inspiring, confident and empowering.



Citizens - improving social mobility

- facilitating innovative projects that support the growth of social action and volunteering and are designed to improve the lives of our citizens and champion social mobility, to raise aspirations, increase confidence, to inform and encourage.

Integral to all our activities is:



Inspire

- Champion the vision for the Civil Service by engaging Civil Servants in all regions, raising awareness, promoting inclusion and encouraging participation.



Innovate

- Encourage a culture of innovation through the design and piloting of creative solutions and new ways of working together.



Invest

- Demonstrate the efficiency of connection and innovation by adding twice the value of the investment in Civil Service Local.

If you can't find what you're looking for and have something you'd like to try, get in touch and we'll see what we can do to support you in bringing your idea to life.



Building Connections

Only through participation will the Civil Service achieve the cultural shift needed to turn the vision into reality and our role is to be a catalyst in that process. We provide the creative spark and energy that drives change forward, we connect people from different departments and help them to share expertise and develop skills and solutions that benefit the business and customers. We focus on forging the links and establishing the trust that allows us to develop new ideas and trial better ways of working.

Cross Government Networks

Outline	Cross-Government Networks are a way of connecting people from different government departments, with a view to collaborating to improve the working environment and develop a more efficient and flexible use of the Civil Service estates, assets, shared services and expertise.
Benefits	The networks provide opportunities to help solve cross-cutting local and business specific problems. You will be able to develop your own knowledge of other departments, increase your personal confidence and contribute to the Civil Service Blue Print by working as 'One Civil Service'. The groups also provide learning and support to others in their profession.
Target Audience	People with a shared interest, in a profession or specialist area looking to work with colleagues from other departments.
When	Face to face meetings approx. once a quarter with some project work in between.
Networks	
Continuous Improvement	This network is for those with a collective expertise seeking to drive practical business improvements through sharing best practice, skills and ideas in change / continuous improvement techniques.
Engagement	This is for those wishing to tackle common problems by developing innovative ideas for improving people engagement across the east, south east and London areas
Redeployment	This network seeks to collaborate across the civil service and wider government to maximise redeployment opportunities for surplus staff and minimise compulsory redundancies.

Digital	This is for those who have good social media skills and are creative, good at planning and communicating want to help colleagues become more digital savvy.
Diversity and Inclusion	This network provides space for members to meet, discuss common issues of interest and seek solutions! So whatever your concern – be it trying to attract more diverse candidates into the Civil Service, trying to implement reasonable adjustments in the workplace for a disabled member of staff, or to simply try and make your workplace feel more inclusive, this network could help you.
Senior Leaders	This is a great opportunity to bring together our leaders within the region and to facilitate a cross-departmental conversation, bringing in issues such as how we can start to create a collective leadership across the Civil Service. The sessions are valuable in helping you to meet your counterparts from different government departments and share conversations around where we could (and should) work more closely.

Civil Service Live

Outline	Civil Service Local work with the Cabinet Office to support this cross government learning event and source hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers to help including welcoming and escorting speakers and guests, managing registration and delegates in seminar rooms and roving mic responsibilities.
Benefits	This fun, interactive and practical event brings together civil servants working in government departments and agencies, and private sector organisations. It is an opportunity to learn and collaborate, share ideas and network with your peers. Volunteers will develop organisational and communication skills.
Target Audience	Open to all grades
When	Annually
How to Access Opportunities	To register for the event go to http://www.civilservicelive.com/ You can also register to volunteer as a helper at the events on the above link.





Capability

By drawing together our collective expertise, we encourage a culture of creativity to flourish from within the Civil Service. The trust that we have built with our partners allows us to channel this creativity into exploring new ways of working, piloting new initiatives on the ground and learning by doing. Some of our successful pilots have now grown to meet a latent demand not catered for elsewhere and now form our flagship products. However we recognise that we need to continue to innovate to maintain the space to do this effectively.

The Academy

Outline	<p>This talent development programme brings together potential leaders of the future to develop and collaborate on group projects which support the Civil Service vision.</p> <p>This is a unique cross-government opportunity for our talented potential leaders of the future. Focusing on leadership, management and empowering our people.</p> <p>You will develop skills as an individual and work together with new colleagues to deliver a project over the next 12 months.</p>
Benefits	<p>This is a great way to learn and develop new skills, your confidence, self-awareness, see the bigger picture and build a cross government team working collaboratively across government departments and public sector.</p>
Time Commitment	<p>A 4 day residential or modular day events with an ongoing 12 month commitment to deliver a cross government project.</p>
Target Audience	<p>First line managers and below.</p>
When	<p>Annually – the next ESEL Academy will be October/November</p>

Discovery Sessions

Outline	<p>A series of free interactive talks and learning events that give colleagues the opportunity to hear about cross-departmental subjects and issues that affect all of us as Civil Servants. Examples include: managing change, devolution, understanding Parliament, wellbeing, flexible working and our ever popular 'secure that job'. New for this year we have Social media for novices and a Competency surgery.</p>
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Benefits	This is a great way to use some of your 5 days a year of learning. They offer an insight from someone who specialises in subjects linked to our work as civil servants.
Time Commitment	2 – 3 hours
Target Audience	Everyone
When	All year





Citizen outreach

Connecting with our local communities through volunteering with schools and community organisations not only promotes awareness of how our work supports the public, it helps citizens access the services we provide, improving social mobility and the life chances of vulnerable citizens in our local communities. By harnessing the voluntary power of the Civil Service we provide opportunities for you to develop and enhance your skills, and your customer insight - all essential for the Civil Service of the 21st century!

Civil Service Local offers a number of opportunities to get involved including:

Inspiring Young People

Outline	Going into schools to raise career aspirations and instil a positive view of the world of work by mentoring, talking about employability skills, providing mock interviews or attending careers fairs. We offer an innovative and fun programme that works with our local school community to raise career aspirations, instil a positive view of the world of work and promote the civil service as an employer of choice.
Benefits	Volunteering is an opportunity to do something different. You'll benefit from working with colleagues from other government and develop organisational and communications skills, improve your Civil Service competencies. The students will get a better understanding of the Civil Service as an employer of choice, and get practical knowledge of the skills they'll need to get and thrive in a job. You'll help raise their aspirations, build your own confidence and have some fun in the process.
Time Commitment	Can vary from just a couple of hours to a longer commitment to work with students over a number of months.
Target audience	Everyone welcome, so if you're interested please contact us to discuss as we have a variety of roles.
When	All year round

Working with adults to improve social mobility

Outline	We offer a range of programmes that utilise the knowledgeable and skills of civil servants from different government departments to offer a friendly face-to face service giving practical help and advice. Opportunities range
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	from providing timely advice to hospice patients to helping veterans secure a job following active service by mentoring, mock interviews, help with CVs.
Benefits	A chance to work with a cross-governmental team in a new and challenging environment. You will have the opportunity to represent the Civil Service rather than just your own Department. It'll build your confidence, enhance your personal and teamwork skills whilst giving you a great sense of job satisfaction. You can help make a real difference to people in the community, challenge your perceptions of our customer service, and learn with your team mates in the process.
Time Commitment	Anything from 1 hour to a few hours a week/month for a period of time
Target audience	Anyone
When	All year round

Volunteering community projects

Outline	Volunteering may be a way to help you in developing your skills, an opportunity to demonstrate existing skills ready for a new job, or more generally a great way to give back to the community and impart your skills. We offer multiple opportunities across the area working with different charities to enhance the lives of vulnerable citizens and improve social mobility.
Benefits	You will develop organisational and communications skills, improve your Civil Service competencies and learn from the experience of working with colleagues from other government departments. Citizens will get a better understanding of the Civil Service as an employer of choice. You'll help raise their aspirations, build your own confidence and have some fun in the process.
Time Commitment	Varies dependant on the project
Target Audience	Everyone
When	All year round