

Comments from participants in Coaching for Leadership and Professional Development 2008

"I signed up for the course after seeing a posting on the AC forum about it from Linda Aspey.

It is an interesting and occasionally provocative course that usefully connects psychological insights to functional leadership. On our course were 14 people from five countries and different kinds of employment, which gave a diverse opinion base, although all of us appeared to be successful, middle-class, white people.

The two facilitators, Karen and Jim, complemented each other well with their own different, expert views.

Although the course is presented under the auspices of the Tavistock Institute and the Tavistock Way is a significant element of the thinking underpinning it, it is presented quite conventionally, which may make it easier to absorb. It comprises whole group presentations and discussion plus small group skills and practice development session and co-coaching. The changing dynamics worked well for me.

The physical course took place over 4 2-day residential sessions at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park and this unique setting became a key element of the programme, The Lodge offers a unique sense of history and country house hospitality, including excellent cooking and service!"

*Jonathan Wilson
Executive Coach / Strategy Advisor, UK*

"The programme provides an outstanding opportunity to learn from the Tavistock representatives, the other participants and oneself. It is a healthy mix of theory and practical application with plenty of opportunities for practice and reflection. I highly recommend the course to those interested in developing both themselves and others".

*Susan Goldsworthy
CEO, Goldswolf, Switzerland*

" I have found the course very helpful in enabling me to take up an expanded role within my company, linking strategy to organisational development. In addition I learned a lot more about the systemic organisational development approach of Tavistock and got the start of a network within the area.

*Kerstin Frenning
Vice President Business Development
TeliaSonera, Sweden*

" I found the course invaluable in terms of integrating all my previous learning and experience into helping me explore and articulate who I am as a coach.

I found the balance of theoretical input and practice development allowed for easy transfer of new models and concepts into real-life practice. These have continued to prove useful with a wide range of clients.

The attention given to different roles i.e, that of an internal and independent coach gave me greater access into taking up my role in different settings as well as practical ideas in terms of developing my practice in both spheres.

I particularly liked the whole systems approach which gave me the tools to understand more individual client situations/needs and work towards meeting them.

The broad mix of participants and overall design of the programme brought out the best in us all, and helped me appreciate the broad range of skills and styles in the coaching arena.

Overall, I found the course to be one of the most supportive, stimulating learning environments I have ever been in, providing me with a space to discover, explore, experiment and reflect in a way that has remained with me in terms of how I practice coaching"

Libby Kineen

Area Head of Organisation Development and Design, HSE West, Eire