

"The Lead Programme is a game changer for self-awareness & career development. The monthly sessions are a safe and trusted space to hold big conversations. The programme feels like a movement of like minded women. What are you waiting for!"

Karen Cooper, Head of Stakeholders, Blackpool Transport Authority

"The LEAD programme is an excellent training course, offering a coaching approach to developing your leadership skills, building confidence, establishing a personal brand and defining how you wish to move forward with your career in a way that suits your personal leadership style and development aspirations. The course encourages the development of a highly valuable network with colleagues from all aspects of the Transport Industry offering support and guidance to each other. I am excited to see how our progress is accelerated by this course and would highly recommend other women in transport to enrol to unleash their full potential as leaders."

Amy Nichols, Rail Programme Sponsor, Transport for Wales

"The course is excellent and surprisingly insightful. It will provide you with real tools you can use in your current role and the next steps you can take to progress towards your ultimate career goal."

Ruth Anderson, Senior Legal Counsel, RDG

"The LEAD course is amazing! I've never learned so much on a single training course, nor had so much of that training be instantly applicable in my work. The course inspires you to achieve, whilst giving you the confidence and the tools to make that a reality."

Becky Lloyd, Associate Director of Transport Planning, Jacobs

"The LEAD programme is giving me access to time, space and tools that will make me more confident and focused on my career path. Being able to go on this journey with a wonderful cohort makes it even more rewarding and provides amazing support."

Bernadette Sachse, Stations Transformation Insights Lead, Network Rail

"LEAD is such a worthwhile and valuable programme. The topics explored and support provided by the group and coaches creates a world of opportunity for your development."

Emma Hext, Senior Associate Director of Transport Planning, Jacobs

"Leadership was an area I developed previously in my career and continue to do so outside of work, but not something I was able to demonstrate so well in my current role. This course has taught me how to develop further and demonstrate my leadership skills and has been a great reminder of how far I have come but that my journey is by no means over. I thoroughly recommend it to anyone who feels like they still have a lot more to give, this course makes you dig deep but ultimately gives you the tools to get you where you want to go."

Tracy Read, Rules & Policies Officer, HSQE, Nexus

"Women in Transport will take you on a personal and professional journey unlike any other 'leadership' course you have done before. Highly recommended."

Emma Thomas, Infrastructure Maintenance Services Manager, Network Rail

Testimonials



"I am really enjoying LEAD. I learn so much about myself and am already putting some of the things I learned into practice to influence my career. If you need some inspiration and motivation and some time to think about you and your career, then this is a great programme to take part in."

Isabelle Milford, Head of Station Capacity Planning, System Operator, Network Rail

"I would recommend this course to anyone finding themselves in a place of a little self doubt -Iain and Gill really do understand how to release potential and encourage a deeper understanding of yourself -your values and your passion and guide you in your path to be a great leader -and not simply lead without awareness and kindness."

Beverley Clyde, Community Relations Officer, Nexus

"I think the course is absolutely brilliant and (for all the right reasons) very challenging. I genuinely think it has the potential to be a complete game changer for all those enrolled."

Ceri McCann, Conductor Performance Manager, Transport for Wales

"One of the most engaging and vibrant programmes I have ever been on! Such a great way to develop as a leader and meet truly fascinating women - thank you so much!"

Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Rail Knowledge Transfer Manager, Innovate UK KTN

"I've learnt so much about myself, about confidence and leadership; and have met and heard from many really inspiring women in the transport industry along the way. It's been a real eye-opener and has certainly boosted my confidence and career ambitions - I'd definitely recommend it."

Catherine Osborn, Project Manager (Walking and Cycling), Transport for Greater Manchester

"The Women in Transport, Lead Development Programme is the place to be, to find out about yourself, your purpose and your beliefs. Through group workshops, self-reflection, peer groupings and insight sessions, learn to feel empowered, confident and drive your career forward. Gill and Iain help you think about what's important to you, your values, your strengths and your communication style and how you can use them to own your progression. All this, plus the support of a friendly, like-minded alumni network."

Angela Rees, Human Resources Business Partner, Transport for Wales Rail/ Trafnidiaeth Cymru Gwasanaethau Trên

"I found Lead extremely useful, especially the tools and techniques delivered throughout the programme. The course requires dedication, and commitments to follow up following workshops, my biggest tip would be to make sure you allow yourself time to do this. Both Gill and Iain are brilliant leaders and coaches in this programme, and I would recommend to other women wanting inspiration, golden nugget learnings, plus [being] able to use the tools and techniques to progress your career. Thank you both."

Karan (Dyer) Evans, HR Business Partner, Transport for Wales

"If you want to discover your true potential - this is the course for you. Engaging, challenging and thought provoking - and you will feel unstoppable at the end of it. I have learnt so much about myself, my strengths and how I want to lead and support others, in my own way. Every conversation is tangible and relatable, and instantly useable both personally and professionally. I would recommend this course to anyone, from those looking to 'find' themselves or regain their confidence (as I was) to those who are looking to build a structured career path."

Nicola Mee, Business Manager, Network Rail

"When I started the course I was extremely apprehensive, as I wasn't sure it was right for me, being a quiet, considered thinking manager who is basically quite shy, and always cautious in group learning situations. However, post course I can honestly say the experience was both enlightening and uplifting, with a genuine feeling of 'released potential'. Opportunity to create a more visible impact was really brought to life, and by the time we got to Module 4 I realised the importance of knowing yourself, strengths and weaknesses and embracing them. Overall, with great guidance, 1:1's and group sessions and a fantastic team of like-minded participants around me, I understood the importance of being kind to yourself, and knowing one's self and learning how to be more influential and make more effective contributions. My coach was both thoughtful and honest, and when blended with perfect kindness, gave great advice, counsel and support. I really benefited from the course and have learned to stay positive, persevere when the going gets tough as you will always learn something from others and about yourself."

Leila Rahimzadeh, Head of People Strategy/Industry HR Partner, RDG

"The LEAD programme is fantastic, I would highly recommend to anyone who wants to grow in self-confidence and self-belief as the course leaders really push you out of your comfort zone to achieve greater things and challenge that imposter syndrome! Such inspirational guest speakers and the network of women I met on my programme are just so supportive."

Clare Murphy, HR Business Partner, Road Haulage Association

"The Lead Programme has been very valuable to me and I know I'll always refer back to the key concepts taught! It has given me the much needed extra boost to keep going and trust yourself! It forced me to dig deep (often uncomfortably) but from that I now feel a lot more self aware and self-assured, which has increased my confidence in approaching things, and most importantly, taking the lead! It has been a worthy investment of my time (although difficult at times) and I hope more women find what they're looking for to give them that extra boost in confidence and to press ahead with their careers!"

Amy Chiu, Finance Business Partner, British Transport Police

"I cannot recommend the LEAD programme highly enough - it is highly structured and fantastically facilitated by Gill and Iain - who are both such inspirational leaders. I came into the programme feeling apprehensive and nervous, but left with new found confidence, skills and a whole network of fabulous and inspirational contacts! They say that timing is everything - but I can honestly say that the completion of this course directly affected my success in a promotion at work. I was able to put into practice some of my learning from the modules around values, purpose and confidence - receiving feedback about my authentic and inclusive leadership style, which I didn't fully understand, or know how to articulate, prior to the programme. I am so grateful for this opportunity and would urge anyone given the chance to attend to do it without hesitation!"

DCI Nia Mellor, British Transport Police

"This leadership programme is built in a way that forces you to look inwards and identify and reflect on your actual strengths, values and areas for improvement and tie these together to unlock your true authentic leadership potential. The workshops centre around key themes introduced by the workshop leads, supported by professional speakers, and utilises a mix of group and independent work to learn and improve your leadership techniques. This programme creates space to think and forces you to uncover your subconscious beliefs that hold you back and challenge then head on. A fantastic programme that I feel truly privileged to have experienced, thank you Lead for providing me with this great opportunity."

Louise Williams, Principal Consultant, PA Consulting

"I don't think that it is an understatement to say that this course can be life changing. The course has given me the opportunity to review the way that I think about myself and to completely deconstruct it. Under the guidance and mentoring of Gill and Iain, with the support of my fellow cohortians and peer group I have learned an enormous amount about myself and my management style. I am excited about the future after this course."

Michelle Love, Safer Travel Manager, Portsmouth City Council

"The LEAD programme has been invaluable to me to allow me the time, direction and support to really assess who I am as an individual and what I want from my career. It has permitted me to invest in myself so that I'm invested in my future."

Ros Walker, Principal Safety and Risk Consultant, TRL

"The Lead programme has provided me with an opportunity that has changed my career and more importantly how I see myself in my career. It's given a platform and a voice to aspects of myself that had been lying dormant."

Eleanor Togut, Project Manager England, Living Streets

"The programme has allowed me time to reflect and gain a better insight into myself, my strengths and how I can tap into these to put forward my best self. I have a renewed confidence, a REAL confidence that will provide me with the courage to take the next step change in my career."

Sarah Jane Waith, Head of Supply Chain and Contract Management, Transport for Wales

"I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the LEAD programme. I started the programme expecting to get advice and support to progress within my career but got so much more out of it. From the invaluable support from the peer, project and overall group, to the tools, discussions, challenges and coaching I received throughout the programme. But most importantly the programme helped me reveal, and work on my authentic self, what kind of leader I want to be and furnished me with numerous tools to get there."

"I would recommend anyone seeking professional development take part in the LEAD programme because alongside a great circle of like-minded women, great coaches and a wealth of information, you will find the tools you need to achieve your goals."

Sue Bennett, Group Assurance Manager, Transport for Wales Group

"My only hope really, was that I would gain some clarity on how to best progress the next stage of my career, however the course has been much more rewarding than that. It has provided solid guidance, insightful reflections, and invaluable support over the last few months. Thank you LEAD team and Cohort 3."

Annette Slater, Engineering Director, Jacobs

"LEAD is nothing short of enlightening. I've learnt lots about myself, my goals and my purpose. I've achieved this working with a hugely supportive cohort and great facilitation by Iain and Gill."

Liz Richardson, Head of Operational Sales, Jacobs

"The LEAD programme is brilliant! I would highly recommend this programme to anyone who wants to hone their leadership skills, grow in confidence and self-belief. The programme is designed to be supportive, but push you out of your comfort zone and challenge that imposter syndrome. Such inspirational guest speakers and the network of women I met on my programme are just so supportive. It has made me take the time to invest in me and develop myself and my career. Thank you Gill and Iain!"

Felicity Tidbury, Acting Assistant Director Transport, Portsmouth City Council

"Such an amazing Programme that has taken me on a wonderful journey of improved leadership in this everchanging corporate environment. Thank you to Women in Transport, Gill How, Iain Smith for such a gripping life changing 8 months."

Theeba Rangunathan, Head of Legal & Compliance, HS2 London Tunnel, SCS Railways

"I had no idea what to expect. I have learned more through the LEAD programme than I thought was possible; about myself, about others, about how we can navigate life and about so many concepts, ideas, tools, practices, approaches and values. I have grown in my career, in my knowledge of what I can achieve and how, and I have met an amazing network of inspirational women, the like of which I have never encountered. (I have even learned that "networking" is not a dirty word!). Gill and Iain masterminded the alchemy and we've reached the end of 8 months of inspirational learning before we knew it and then we reflect and realise just how much we have all developed and gained. I would recommend LEAD wholeheartedly to anyone who is at any point in their career where they are searching a little, want to build themselves or just need a rocket boost. Be brave; go for it (you'll only get braver, I promise!)."

Sam Swayne, Technical Director, Jacobs

"The Lead programme allowed me to crystallise what I felt and pushed me to change into the ideal role. This was a huge step which was challenging at first but having the team and support has allowed me to have confidence even through good and bad days. This has meant I have supported the business to grow in challenging areas."

Alice Wiggins, Senior Associate Director, Jacobs

"I've learnt so much about myself through my participation in Lead. I've gained a truer sense of my underlying values and purpose and how to develop my career in line with those. I've identified my strengths and gained the confidence to seek out opportunities that enable me to use these strengths to excel and to be the best, most authentic leader I can be."

Being part of such a wonderful cohort of women has been incredibly supportive and fun! I'm sure that many of my peers will be connections, colleagues and friends throughout my career ahead. And I'm excited to be a part of the alumni community as well."

Gill and Iain are kind and generous teachers, taking us through a challenging, thought provoking and stimulating learning experience."

I cannot recommend this programme highly enough!"

Dr Clare Linton, Policy and Research Advisor, Urban Transport Group