



great people.
great places.



WHAT WE DO

The Leadership Centre is an independent charity, founded in 2004 following a Leadership Development Commission review of leadership and leadership development in local government. We exist to support and empower leaders to have the greatest collective positive impact on the communities they serve.

We focus on places and human systems, seeking to connect and collaborate to explore and address the most complex issues facing communities and the leaders within them. We work across all sectors, organisations and individuals whose raison d'être is about enhancing public good.

"The Centre's purpose and distinctiveness have always been borne of that restless enquiry into how leaders can best understand and navigate complexity and, accordingly, achieve the greatest public good through their partnerships and in their place."

Mark Rogers
CEO, Leadership Centre



HOW WE WORK

Our focus is strongly on enabling intelligent place and systemic leadership. We act as a respectful but provocative thinking partner helping you to find the right questions to ask, facilitating relationships across your system, curating ideas and supporting you to make sense of complexity.

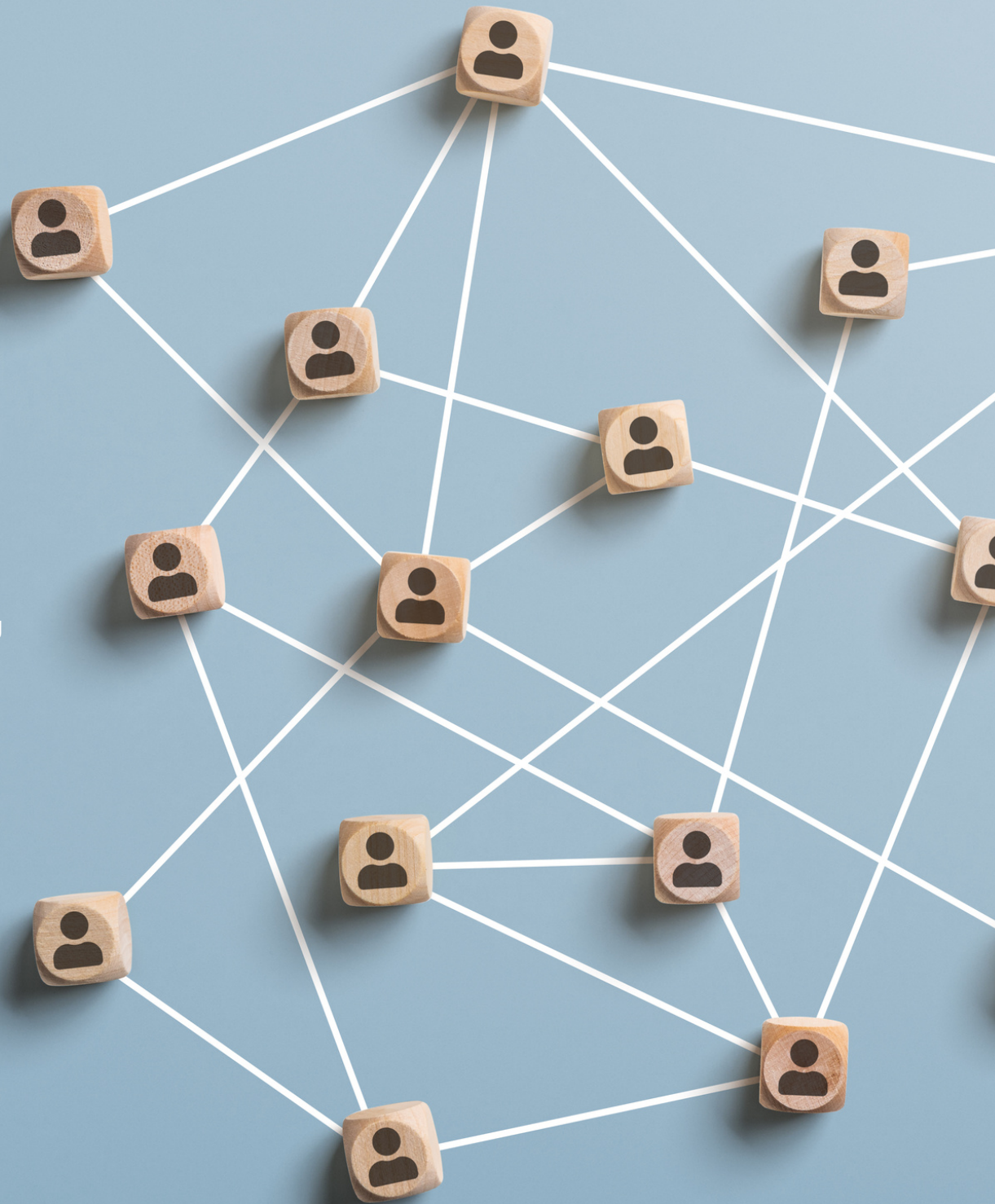
We have a distinctive, bespoke approach which takes into consideration the unique identity of each place we work within. Our skill lies in our ability to notice and make sense of what is happening in your system, fusing it with the application of knowledge, experience and resources in a way which is resonant with your place.

We help leaders improve outcomes for people and place by moving from a focus on;

parts → *whole*

linear → *looped*

one answer → *experimentation*



We adopt a relational approach that allows for deep exploration and sense-making. At the heart of our work is a focus on:

People - everything we do is about engaging people to create better communities

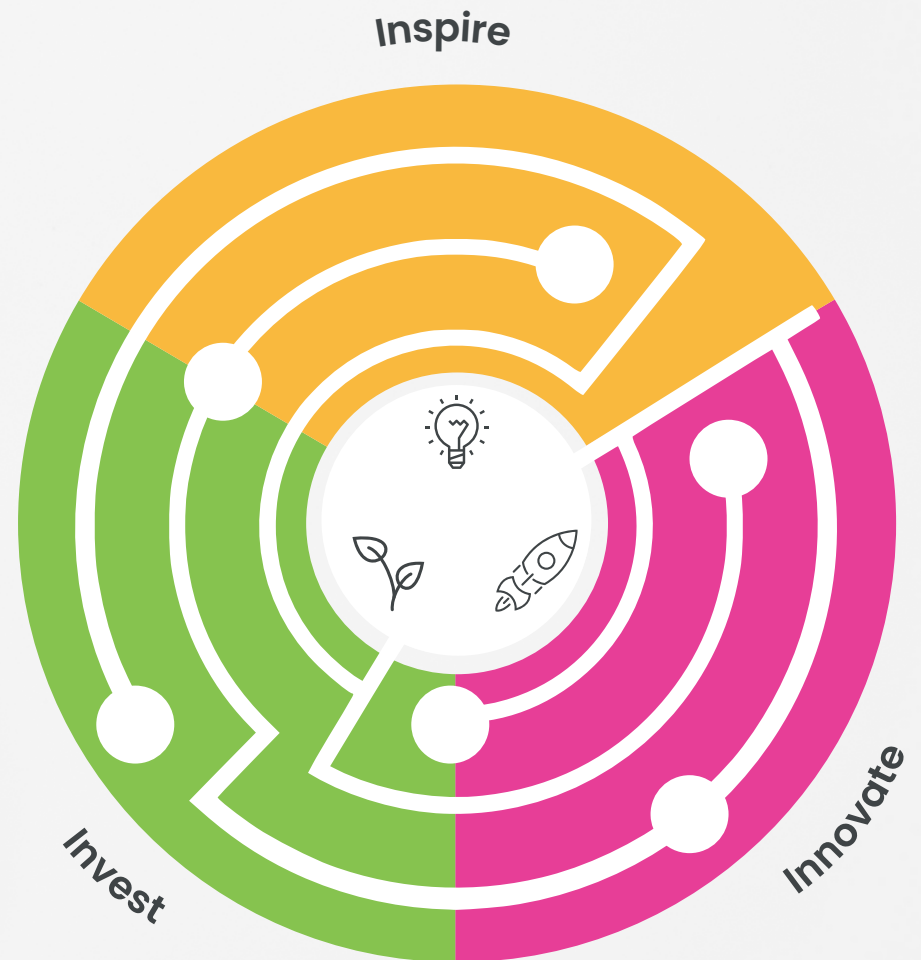
Places - every place is different so our work is entirely bespoke

Politics - because politics, as the democratic representation of power, is an intrinsic part of the system.

We are a collaborative organisation with a large, diverse, respected network of alumni and partners. We believe that great leaders make great places and we support that through our three key missions, all of which are interconnected:



Our Interconnected Missions





INNOVATE



Do you have a big social or leadership question that you are wrestling with? Or a radical idea that you wish you could think through with others? Perhaps you have funding for a strategic ambition but no way of realising it?

We have always sought to work with people who want to interrogate convention, and edge into more uncomfortable developmental spaces. We believe that the most exciting and purposeful innovation takes place when diverse combinations of people come together to focus on the most complex social, environmental and economic issues we face.

We can work with you to co-create the missions and enquiries you sense are crucial to tackling the symptoms we see today, from the cost-of living crisis to homelessness and obesity. Our collaborative missions-based platform places experimentation at its heart and promises to truly push the boundaries of what is possible.

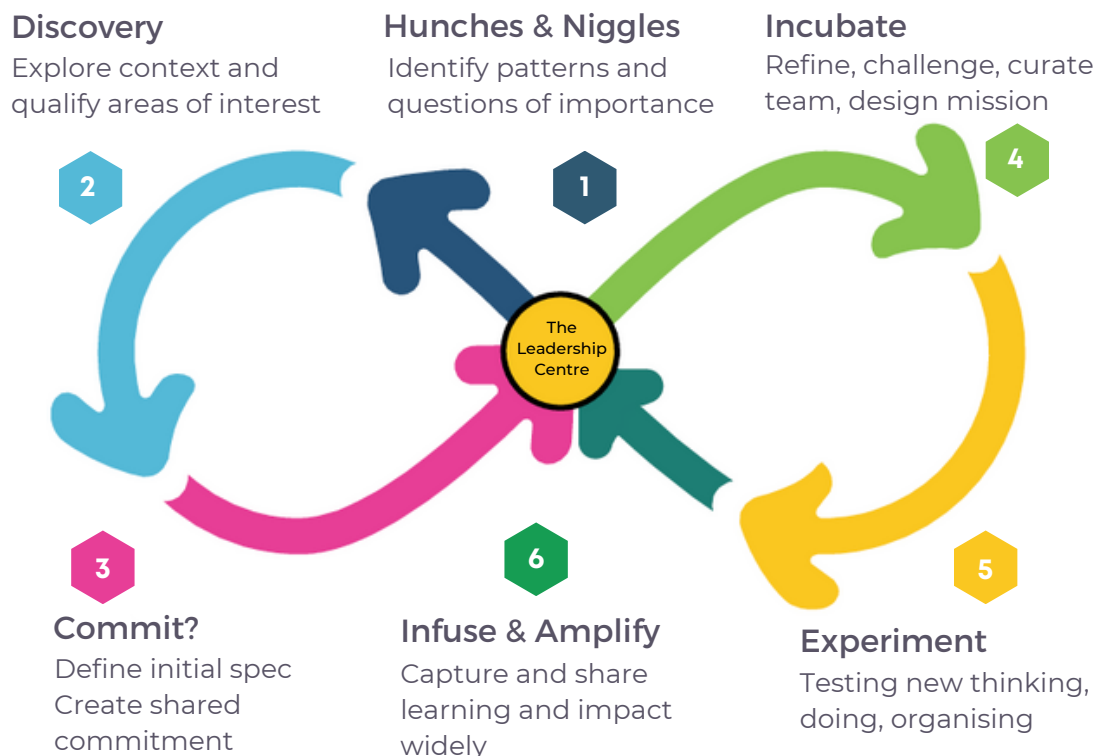


INNOVATE

Each enquiry we develop will look a little different but they will have at their core some key characteristics:

- **Permeable** – convening and navigating interfaces between local, regional and national and across sectors.
- **Action orientated** – experimenting and learning by doing, developing leadership and problem-solving capacities by focussing on challenges of importance to our communities.
- **Future focussed** – creating the enabling environments that need to be put in place if social innovations are to achieve their ultimate ambition of systemic change.
- **Disruptive** – developing ways to infect and spread what we learn to nurture wider wisdom and change.
- **Leadership practice orientated** – evolving next practice, going beyond the frameworks of what we know.

Our Social Innovation Studio



We hear frequently the difficulty of creating the future whilst dealing with the onslaught of immediate pressures. There remain long standing challenges to address and new ones emerging – and it's clear that using existing solutions in the face of persistent challenges isn't working, so we need to develop new ones.

John Jarvis
COO, Leadership Centre



Do you want to stretch what you are able to do as a leader? Do you need additional bandwidth to do justice to your ambitions? Would you like to challenge your assumptions and be exposed to new ideas?

We have a wealth of experience delivering cutting edge projects and programmes. The way we work often feels different to those experiencing for the first time, but we know it is effective, having been developed over 18 years working with people in their place. One way of working with us is to join a programme to learn alongside others outside of your system. You can see examples of some of our learning-led programmes below.

Future Vision

Our flagship leadership programme offers a unique experience for senior leaders who recognise that what they already know and how they already lead is not sufficient to meet the nature of the challenges they are facing. [Find out more.](#)

Master Practitioner Programme

This programme offers the opportunity for participants to identify and work intensively on a particular leadership challenge in their system. It is practical, applied learning which brings benefits for participants and their organisations. [Find out more.](#)





Do you want us to come and work alongside you, helping you to develop the type of leadership which allows you to work more effectively in your system and thrive in complexity?

This is one of the ways that we work with people in their places and it brings the additional benefit of allowing us to provide perspective on the unique issues and challenges you are facing. A great example of this is the work we did with the fantastic team at Homeless Link.

Homeless Link

Homeless Link is a national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless. They approached the Leadership Centre because the complexity of the system and number of organisations working in the space, was leading to challenges both for those working in the system, and for people trying to access support.

We worked with the Homeless Link Partnerships Team to co-design a systems leadership programme which was jointly delivered. The work raised awareness of the power of influence – at all levels and without positional authority, building the confidence of frontline staff to bring new ideas into their organisations, ultimately shifting thinking, behaviour and action.



"I now have the understanding that I do have the ability to influence change on a much wider scale...I can see through the complexity more clearly and, instead of becoming overwhelmed by it, can focus on what I have the power to change in a very practical way."

**Catherine Storey
Partnership Manager
Homeless Link**



Are you seeking to bridge the gap between public services and community aspirations? Do you feel like you are pulling levers but getting no traction?

We want to support the investment of resources, time, money and ideas on aspects of society that tend to be least in view. We aspire to back every person, system and place that wants to, for example, grapple with the discrimination of marginalised communities, enable middle leadership or tackle the climate crisis. Ultimately we believe that in order to address our biggest challenges we need to harness the insight, experience and skills of all.

We have experience of helping leaders work more effectively within their communities. We can help you to understand how public policy and community interest can meet - bridging the gap between organisational goals and the needs of the community.

Perhaps you are a leader in the public or private sector who is interested in engaging with different communities to identify and work on your big systemic challenges? If so, we can help you to do so in a way which maximises social value.



some of the great
people we've
worked with.

get in touch

www.leadershipcentre.org.uk

info@leadershipcentre.org.uk

020 7250 8049



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE

GREATERSPORT



Living Well
Network
Alliance



Improving lives **together**
Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System



Leadership Academy