# South London Care Home Pioneer Programme 2025 – 2026

***For care settings in south west London***

Health Innovation Network South London

My home life England

# The South London Care Home Pioneer Programme - Cohort 7

The South London Care Home Pioneer Programme is a leadership development and quality improvement programme. It is open to care home managers, deputies, and senior nurses working in the following care settings in **south west London**: older person's residential homes, older person's nursing homes, learning disability and mental health care settings, and supported living settings.

The programme is open to care home managers working in eligible care settings across the boroughs of **Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton, and Wandsworth**.

The programme is delivered by the Health Innovation Network (HIN) South London in partnership with My Home Life England, an organisation focused on improving the quality of life for those living, visiting, and working in care homes and other care settings.

The programme offers support to care home managers to:

- Advance their leadership skills
- Design and deliver a quality improvement (QI) project

Past participants have reported that the programme has helped them to increase resilience, reduce burnout, improve staff morale and improve relationships with external agencies.

> The role of the manager can be isolating and lonely, so it (the programme) gives a safe space to be able to share issues and get support to resolve them"
> ***- South London Care Home Manager***

## What does it involve?

The 2025-2026 programme runs over an eight-month period (September 2025 to April 2026) with a celebration day in May 2026. The programme consists of two key components, leadership development and quality improvement.

Pioneers are guided and supported by skilled coaches and facilitators to advance their **leadership skills**, learning from each other, and supporting each other to consider new ways to approach some of the complex issues which are part of the job.

> "Action learning has allowed me to be more holistic in my approach and in my role"
> ***- South London Care Home Manager***

The programme begins with four face-to-face workshops, followed by a series of six action learning sets, some delivered virtually and some face-to-face. 'Action learning' recognises that individuals learn best when they learn with and from each other, by working on real problems and drawing on experiences. The sessions are confidential to allow a safe space for the Pioneers to share their personal experiences.

Each Pioneer will design and deliver their own **quality improvement** project. The HIN will support Pioneers to focus their projects on areas identified for improvement in their most recent Care Quality Commission reviews. HIN staff will visit you at your care setting to provide project support, offering intensive one-to-one support, on-site guidance, observing progress, and helping you to embed quality improvement approaches in practice.

Once completed, your quality improvement projects will be shared more widely to promote learning across the care home sector.

# How do I apply?

**Application deadline: Wednesday 23rd July 2025**

Click here to complete the short application form. Successful applicants will be notified by Monday 28th July 2025.

We are delighted to offer this programme **free of charge** to south west London care home leaders, generously funded by South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) and through the Q Community's Supporting Q Connections programme, by the Health Foundation.

Your care home must be located in one of the following boroughs: **Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton, and Wandsworth**.

**Your commitment:**

- Being part of the programme involves **commitment from you, your line manager and your care home** to attend all workshops and action learning sets throughout the programme.
- Although offered free to your care home, your place costs £3,000 to funders, South West London ICB and the Health Foundation. Attendance **of over 75%** is required to complete the programme.
- Completed learning hours will be recorded and shared with you and your line manager.
- **By submitting an application form, you are confirming you have booked out all relevant dates in your diary**.

**By the end of the programme, you will have:**

- Completed up to **47.5 hours** of workshops, action learning sets and site visits.
- Delivered a quality improvement project including a poster to describe your work.
- Received support from HIN staff on-site in your care home, to help with your quality improvement project.

Please note we will prioritise applicants whose care homes are rated by the Care Quality Commission as 'inadequate', 'requires improvement' or 'good'.

If you are interested in applying to become a Care Home Pioneer, and would like further information, please contact Amy Jackson or Vanessa Zampangi, at **hin.pioneerprogramme@nhs.net**.

Contact us on:
hin.pioneerprogramme@nhs.net

Healthinnovationnetwork.com
Myhomelife.org.uk

"We are more confident, more efficient, and proud of ourselves and the job we do. We are effectively managing ourselves and our teams better."
***- South London Care Home Manager***

"I used to be shy and hesitant to speak my mind, but now I have learned to be more confident and make changes. This programme has helped me become emotionally stronger as a leader." ***- South London Care Home Manager***

## Key Programme Dates

- Please see the full schedule of dates below.
- All workshops will be delivered in person at Becket House in central London, within walking distance of Waterloo and Westminster stations.
- Three of the six Action Learning Sets will be delivered in-person, and the remaining three delivered online.

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| **Workshop 1 – In-person (Full day)** | **Tuesday 9th September 2025** |
| **Workshop 2 – In-person (Full day)** | **Thursday 25th September 2025** |
| **Workshop 3 – In-person (Full day)** | **Tuesday 30th September 2025** |
| **Workshop 4 – In-person (Full day)** | **Tuesday 14th October 2025** |
| **Project support coaching (at your care home/setting) (Half-day)** | **November 2025** |
| **Action Learning Session 1 – In-person (Half-day)** | **Tuesday 18th November 2025** |
| **Action Learning Session 2 – Online (Half-day)** | **Thursday 11th December 2025** |
| **Action Learning Session 3 and, Quality Improvement Session 1 In-person (Full day)** | **Tuesday 13th January 2026** |
| **Action Learning Session 4 – Online (Half-day)** | **Thursday 5th February 2026** |
| **Action Learning Session 5 and, Quality Improvement Session 2 In-person (Full day)** | **Tuesday 3rd March 2026** |
| **Action Learning Session 6 – Online (Half-day)** | **Thursday 16th April 2026** |
| **Celebration Day – In-person (Full day)** | **Tuesday 5th May 2026** |