

Do Women Make The Best 21st Century Leaders?

HOW IS LEADERSHIP PERCEIVED IN OUR SOCIETY?–
DO WOMEN MAKE GOOD LEADERS?–
WOMEN AS NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS–
WHAT SPECIFIC LEADERSHIP SKILLS DO WOMEN HAVE?–
WHY DOES THIS MAKE THEM BETTER LEADERS?

In “*Do Women make the best 21st century leaders*” Sheila Stokes White draws upon over 30 years experience of leadership. The session will take a light hearted look at leadership, women’s experience of it and will consider the curious paradox between women’s real leadership abilities including their emotional intelligence and multi tasking facilities and other people’s perception of them. As Managing Director of Strategic Solutions Ltd, an organisation development company, Sheila works with leaders and chief officers of many organisations offering high quality, tailor made solutions which focus on creating transformational change. She is passionate about growing leaders throughout the North East and indeed the UK.

Her primary work for the company is on developing leadership programmes which are tailor made for the client – often a large and complex cross sector or multi agency range of partners, as well as single organisations. Sheila has a tremendous ability to inspire and motivate others, harnessing commitment, passion and drive in those with whom she works, helping organisations and individuals to develop and grow. Sheila is also a strategic adviser to central government working with the boards of major funded initiatives to improve strategic focus and leadership.

Having crossed the divide from working in the public sector to becoming an entrepreneur, she would argue that leadership skills are vital to all sectors, that the creation of other leaders is a key leadership skill and that an inclusive and enabling leadership style is often what singles out the most successful organisations. These are often where women leaders are to be found.

Sheila’s interesting life provides the material for many wry observations and has included working in a woman’s prison, living in Italy and working in partnership with the European Commission and the Council of Europe. A trained and experienced probation officer, she has managed very high risk offenders in the community and within the service had a range of specialist leadership training including at the University of Cambridge and the Tavistock Institute in London. She came to the North East as a chief officer with the probation service and oversaw the acquisition and opening of a new training headquarters and the design of a new people development portfolio.

Sheila is Vice Chair of an NHS Trust and has been a non executive director for five years serving on the Audit and Remuneration committees.

Sheila draws on all her considerable facilitation skills to make this an interactive, thought provoking and stimulating session – worth spending your lunch time on