

ACE and Nous Group are delighted to invite you to participate in a tailored Masterclasses Series for New & Aspirant CEOs of Public Bodies

Participant briefing pack 2025/26

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1. OVERVIEW OF MASTERCLASS SERIES 2025/26

1. Overview | Purpose of the masterclass series

Association of Chief Executives and Nous Group are delighted to invite you to participate in a 3-part series of tailored masterclasses aimed at equipping and developing new and aspiring CEOs for their roles. The purpose of this series is to:

Go deep into the nuances of chief executives' unique role and responsibilities within public bodies

1

Explore and develop the unique skills and effective practices needed for public body leadership

2

Strengthen and extend CEOs peer networks to provide support, resilience and a sounding board for the future

3

Learn from seasoned CEO experts – their successes and their challenges in the public body context

4

"Sometimes you find a programme which fundamentally changes your perception of the 'art of the possible.' The masterclass series has exceeded my expectations and helped me to think through what type of CEO I could be and the journey to achieve that aspiration." – 2024 Participant

Participating | Who should join the masterclasses

Focused on your needs...

This short series of leadership development sessions are tailored for:

- Newly appointed and aspirant CEOs (appropriate for individuals up to 24 months in post, or see CEO as their potential next move)

...for an exclusive group...

- The masterclasses will be available to 15-20 participants to support development of meaningful peer relationships and enable full participation
- Open individuals in organisations who are ACE and PCF members, as well as individuals from outside of the membership

...with a learning attitude

Each masterclass will comprise a balance of:

- Leading practice and theory in leadership development focused on the needs of leaders of public bodies
- Learning from experienced public body leaders
- Active learning through a mixture of methods
- Self-reflection and group discussion with peer-to-peer learning

Outcomes | What you will learn



SESSION 1 | The CEO in government

Drawing on the CEO in Government report, delve into the requirements of CEOs in public bodies.

SESSION 2 | Navigating the stakeholder landscape

Map and explore the stakeholder landscape for public bodies. Learn how to engage those stakeholders for positive outcomes.

SESSION 3 | Leading through crisis and change

Hear lived experiences of leading public bodies through crisis and change. Share lessons learnt around leading effectively through upheaval.

Previous speakers | CEO peers and thought leaders



Dame Helen Stephenson
CBE, former CEO
Charity Commission



Natalie Prosser, CEO
Office for Environmental
Protection



Oliver Morley, CEO
MaPS (previously CEO, The
Pension Protection Fund)



Martin Jones CBE, HM Chief
Inspector at HM Probation
Inspectorate (previously CEO,
Parole Board)



Vicky Fox, CEO
Supreme Court



Alex Thomas, Programme
Director - Civil Service
Institute for Government



Amanda Spielman, previously
HM Chief Inspector, Ofsted



Lisa Pinney MBE, CEO
The Coal Authority

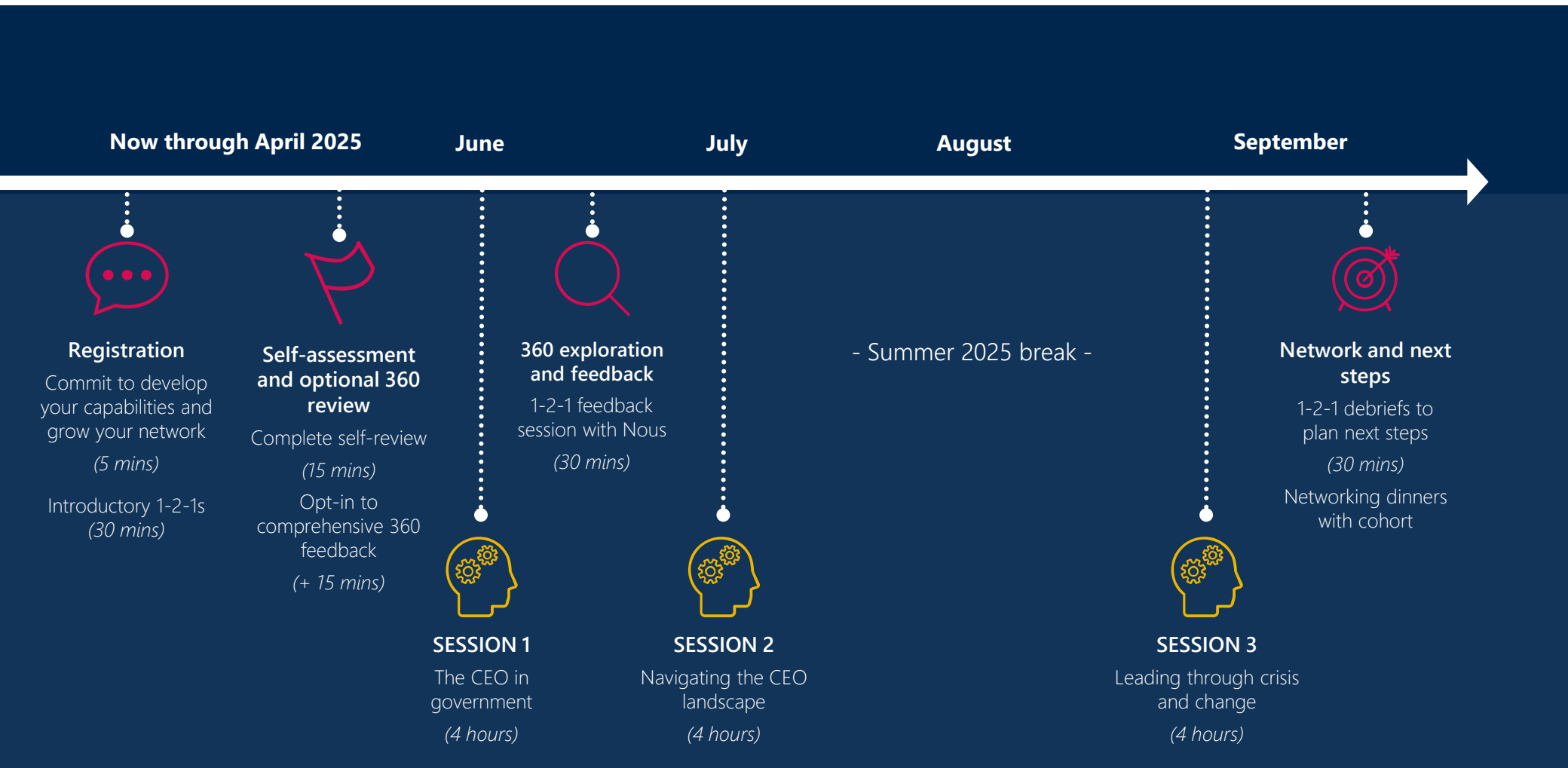


Michelle Russell, CEO
Security Industry Authority

(2025 speakers to be confirmed)

2. LOGISTICS

Timeline | How the series will run



Logistics | Practical details and what to expect

We ask all participants to commit to the masterclass programme – to complete the self-review and attend all three core sessions. The more comprehensive 360 appraisal is optional.

PRE-WORK: Self-review and optional 360

Self-review: 15-20 minutes to complete an online self-assessment.

Optional 360 add-on:

- Nominate peers: 10 minutes
- Peer reviewer time: 15-20 minutes, within a week-long response window
- Optional extra deep dive engagement with reviewers: 15-minute conversation between Nous and reviewers to identify your targeted development goals

Report back: One-to-one 30-minute meeting with a Nous facilitator to review and discuss learning objectives for the series

Core session delivery

Core sessions will be in-person, to build relationships with your peers
Prep and 1-2-1s will be virtual, via MS Teams

Core session dates (4 hours per session, with lunch provided)

Session 1: 10.00 – 14.00 on 04 June 2025
Session 2: 10.00 – 14.00 on 09 July 2025
Session 3: 10.00 – 14.00 on 10 September 2025
Post-programme dinner: 10 September 2025

Location

ACE, 2 Carlton Gardens, SW1Y 5AA: [Find it on Google maps](#)

Cost

£2,000 per participant (VAT excl.) for ACE-PCF members
£2,500 per participant (VAT excl.) for non-ACE-PCF members

3. ABOUT ACE & NOUS GROUP

Participation | Why learn from us

This programme draws on joint research and expertise from the 2020 report *The CEO in Government – Leading ALBs well*, which includes a new competency framework for ALB leadership. ACE and Nous collectively bring deep expertise and networks from across the public sector. Feedback from the inaugural series in 2023, and subsequently in 2024, was extremely positive with 100% of participants saying they would recommend the masterclass programme to peers.

"The quality of the content and delivery has set the bar. It has been a privilege to be part of it."
– 2023 Participant

"Thoroughly enjoyed hearing from the excellent guest speakers and the opportunity to have rich conversations with peers."
– 2023 Participant

"The sessions were very well thought through and extremely helpful to understand more of what it takes to be effective in a public body CEO role."
– 2023 Participant

"As a curious, aspiring CEO, I heard from established CEOs and had the privilege to be with a cohort of newly appointed CEOs and those like me who are interested to see if they have what it takes to reach this level. I have been energised and motivated to dream bigger." – Tricia Morrison, Director of Performance & Improvement, NHS Counter Fraud Authority (2024 Participant)



Association of Chief Executives (ACE)



Association of
Chief
Executives

Founded in 2006, ACE is a unique independent member-led organisation committed to strengthening UK public service.

We provide member-led peer support, insight, inspiration and education for chief executives and executives of public bodies, and work closely with our sister organisation, the Public Chairs' Forum (PCF).

Based at the Institute for Government in London, ACE and PCF engage directly into the heart of government, across Westminster and Whitehall.

Membership of ACE is available to Arm's-Length Bodies; whether Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB) or Executives Agencies, ranging in size and operating in a variety of fields across the public sector.

ACE is currently chaired by Adrian Smith OBE, Chief Executive Reclaim Fund Ltd.



Nous Group is an international management consultancy operating across the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

A bigger idea of success

We are inspired and determined to improve people's lives in significant ways. When our strengths complement yours and we think big together, we can transform businesses, governments, and communities. We realise a bigger idea of success.

700
PEOPLE

5
COUNTRIES

Our capabilities

STRATEGY

Business and growth strategy
Cost reduction and productivity
Business cases

PUBLIC POLICY

Policy development
Regulation
Evaluation

ECONOMICS

Cost-benefit and impacts
Pricing and cost recovery
Market design and efficiency

TRANSFORMATION & IMPLEMENTATION

Transformation strategy and delivery
Implementation support and assurance
Mergers, acquisition and integration

ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Operating model
Culture
Workforce
Equity, diversity and inclusion

LEADERSHIP & CAPABILITY

Leadership strategy, assessment and development
Capability and learning

DATA & ANALYTICS

Data strategy and capability
Advanced analytics
Data Assets Warehouse for Nous (DAWN)

DIGITAL

Digital strategy
Digital transformation advisory
Cyber security capability and culture

DESIGN

Service design and implementation
Customer experience strategy and measurement
User research and insights
Digital product design

Cubane Consulting –
Uniforum benchmarking

+80.7

2020–22 NET PROMOTER SCORE
– global consulting average: **+76.6**

Our key sectors

Education | Government | Health | Social care

Participation | How to take part

Are you motivated to explore how to be impactful and effective as a public body CEO?

Click [**HERE**](#) to formally express your interest and secure your place on the programme.*

**If you have already expressed interest with the ACE Secretariat, we will be in touch to follow up with you. Additional queries can be emailed to secretariat@associationofchiefexecutives.org.uk*



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