Dear Colleague

**An invitation to nominate participants for the South Central Leading Improvement of Health and Well-being Programme**

It is a real pleasure to be announcing the newly created *South Central Leading Improvement of Health and Well-being Programme*. This bespoke leadership development programme will bring together no more than 60 senior staff from a range of public sector organisations to learn together how to develop the way they lead, implement and deliver improvement of health and well-being in their local communities.

I am writing to invite you to apply to be part of the programme and also to nominate key senior staff in your organisation. We have commissioned the Improvement Foundation, working in partnership with Professor David Hunter (Durham University), supported by the Local Government Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) to design and deliver this programme. Further details on the programme and on-line application can be found at [www.improvementfoundation.org/SCLIHWBP](http://www.improvementfoundation.org/SCLIHWBP).

I will be launching the programme at a workshop on the 25th November 2008 from 12.00hrs to 16.00hrs. The launch workshop is for all programme participants and their organisational sponsors, plus others interested in hearing more about the programme. Other speakers at this event will include Professor David Hunter, Liam Hughes, National Advisor Healthy Communities, IDeA, and Dr Catherine Hannaway, National Lead for Leadership Development at the Improvement Foundation. Further details of the launch workshop and a booking form to attend the event can be found at [www.improvementfoundation.org/SCleadership](http://www.improvementfoundation.org/SCleadership). Please complete the launch event booking form by Wednesday, 5th November 2008 at the latest.

The programme will run throughout 2009 and will be made up of five events of one or two days. These will be supported by action learning and access to additional skills workshops. The programme will be free to participants except for personal costs of travel and overnight accommodation.
Nominations to the programme should be at a senior level (CEO, Director, Assistant Director level, Head of Services) and will be those involved in influencing health and well-being improvement and reform across South Central.

The aims of the programme are to:
- develop local leadership capacity in relation to service and quality improvement;
- deliver health and well-being improvement reform on the ground across South Central;
- develop effective partnerships across organisational boundaries and strong local networks.

Why is this so important? Why should you and your colleagues give up your precious time to attend?

The simple answer is that we know that making a real difference to peoples’ health and quality of life, and reducing inequalities, requires strong leadership from professionals in many different agencies working towards some common goals. We want to bring together those senior people from Health, Social Care and wider council systems, and to help them develop the personal, leadership and quality improvement skills that need to operate in concert to produce wholesystems change. We strongly believe that there is value in learning together. We think this programme will make a significant contribution to developing mutually supportive relationships across organisational boundaries in South Central and achieving sustainable developments.

Places will be limited and we expect strong interest. Please therefore ensure that applicants from your organisation fulfil the criteria, have read and sign-up to the learning contract and that they accept the participant place as a personal learning opportunity which will be allocated to them for the duration of the programme. All applications will be taken online and must be submitted by 5pm Friday 24th October 2008.

If you have any queries about the programme, please contact Dr Catherine Hannaway, National Lead for Leadership Development at the Improvement Foundation Catherine.hannaway@improve.nhs.uk or by telephone on 07810 836306.

I would also be very happy to hear from you directly on this important initiative.

Yours sincerely

Professor John Newton
Regional Director of Public Health
NHS South Central