The Insurance of Institute of Stoke

President’s Career Acceleration Programme 2025

The Insurance Institute of Stoke-on-Trent is proud to sponsor the second year of its development programme for professionals building their careers in the local insurance and financial services market.  
  
This **fully funded** 6-month Career Accelerator Programme was initiated by the Council to help address one of the sector’s biggest challenges: talent development and retention. The Institute is committed to investing in local professionals and showcasing the opportunities for progressive, sustainable careers here in Staffordshire.

We’re also thrilled to be hosted by DJH and Wealth Experts, who are generously providing their office space as the venue for this year’s programme.

*“The goal is not to be perfect by the end. The goal is to be better today.”* Simon Sinek

This programme has been curated to:

>improve participants career development

>increase their emotional intelligence

>push past any obstacles that is standing in their way

in a supportive, practical, enjoyable learning environment, bringing in the expertise of the leaders of our time and hosted from a lived experience point of view. With a unique point being that participants are getting the benefit from a group of like-minded people within the same industry and area.

*“Managing your impulsive, emotional Chimp as an adult will be one of the biggest factors determining how successful you are in life”* Dr Steve Peters

For the company: As a result of the support, participants will feel valued by your organisation, and you will have happier, healthier, more productive staff who are more likely to be retained and promoted within your organisation.

*“Most employees are disengaged, want more training, and want to know their employers care about, and are invested in their future. They want to know that there are opportunities to advance and that their career path isn’t just a dead end.*” Training Industry

For the participants: To get out of the office and into a safe space you will:

>Increase on your skillset

>Get personal and group support on challenges you are facing right now and looking into the future

>Connect with like-minded people

“You can choose courage, or you can choose comfort, but you cannot choose both” Brene Brown

Participant Feedback from the 2024 Programme:

“I’ve learned to adapt my leadership style and own my voice.”

“More faith in myself and the value I bring.”

“It was empowering to hear different perspectives and realise I’m not alone.”

“I can now read people and situations better—it’s changed how I lead.”

“I’ve gained confidence to take on new challenges.”

100% would recommend this programme

**Included in the Training:**

Monthly Facilitated Learning & Support (5 x half day in person sessions hosted at DJH office, Stoke-on-Trent)

Once a month, participants join a group of fellow participants to receive high-level facilitated peer support. Through coaching techniques, masterminding, learning and drawing on Katie May Beardmore’s 15+ years of leadership expertise, she keeps the group aligned and on track towards their intentions and priorities so that every month counts. The extended network this creates is a valuable source of support and motivation. Peer support helps to identify and overcome bottlenecks to their careers and supports each individual to self-navigate them and build momentum. Profound connection with fellow participants in a safe space is one of the most highly valued aspects of the training programme.

Invite to President's Annual Dinner

Enjoy the fabulous evening event on Friday 26th September at the DoubleTree Hilton in Stoke-on-Trent as a guest of the Institute

**About your coach and facilitator**

Katie May Beardmore returns as facilitator of the Career Accelerator Programme following the success and impact of last year’s pilot.

Katie is an executive leadership coach, speaker, and former Director of People & Client Success with 17+ years’ experience across the tech, financial, and insurance sectors. She’s passionate about helping leaders and emerging talent utilise their strengths, develop their emotional intelligence, and progress in their careers—without burning out.

Starting her leadership journey at 20, Katie rose to director level in a family-owned fintech business, supporting growth to 350+ staff and over £25m in revenue. She combines lived experience with powerful coaching tools, bringing warmth, challenge, and clarity to every session.

Katie is also the former President of the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce (2021–2023) and trustee of local charities. She’s a certified One of Many™ Leadership Coach and Trainer. Find out more about Katie here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kbeardmore/>

**Entry Criteria:**

This course is aimed for anyone in the insurance/financial services profession

* A rising star in your company – demonstrating their eagerness, go getter attitude
* Someone who is recently in a leadership position
* Progressing in their career
* Senior technical person who wants to expand their skillset

Diversity, equity and inclusion is extremely valued by the Institute. All applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability.

Ideally, you/your nominee will be a member of the Stoke-on-Trent Insurance Institute and candidates must meet the following criteria:

* Have been working in the insurance/financial services profession for at least two years as at the 1 January 2025
* Entrants can be from any section of the industry (e.g. - operations, support, etc.)
* You can nominate yourself (with your managers permission) or be nominated by someone else

Email the completed nomination form to **Angela.henry@mmgroup-uk.com** and **stokeontrentinstitute@cii.co.uk**

The closing date for entries is COP **Friday 2nd May 2025**

**How to Enter:**

1. Check that you (or your nominee) meet the entry criteria to apply for the award
2. Complete the nomination form (has sections for the manager and potential participant), paying attention to the judging criteria that are set out below
3. Make sure that all your details are completed on the entry form so that we can contact you

**Judging Criteria:**

The judges will be looking for participants who:

* Are really engaged
* Can demonstrate what they are going to get the most out of
* Have something that is holding them back and want support on
* Can show how this will this help them to further their career
* How it will influence other people & the wider community

**The Judging Process:**

The nominations will be judged by a panel comprised of Council Members of The Insurance Institute of Stoke-on-Trent.

Participants selected by the panel will attend 5 half day sessions with a light lunch included in a local location and also invited to attend the Institute’s Annual Dinner as a guest of the institute.

**The Programme Timetable:**

Friday 2nd May 2025 Closing date for entries

Friday 9th May 2025 Entries judged and successful applicants contacted

Tuesday 20th May Session 1 (9.30am–1.30pm)

Tuesday 17th June Session 2 (9.30am–1.30pm)

Tuesday 15th July Session 3 (9.30am–1.30pm)

Tuesday 16th September Session 4 (9.30am–1.30pm)

Friday 26th September Annual Dinner and Awards presentation (7-11pm)

Tuesday 14th October Session 5 (9.30am–1.30pm)

Application Form

The President’s Career Acceleration Programme 2025

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| **Applicant Information** | |
| **First and Surname:** |  |
| **Position in Company:** |  |
| **Company Name:** |  |
| **Company Address including postcode:** |  |
| **Contact Telephone Number:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Confirmation the nominee can commit to the programme dates required:** |  |
| **Please let us know if there are any reasonable adjustments that are needed within the application process or programme:** |  |
| **Managers Information** | |
| **First and Surname:** |  |
| **Position in Company:** |  |
| **Company Name:** |  |
| **Contact Telephone Number:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Relationship to Nominee:** |  |

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| **Candidate’s Manager submission (no more than 400 words)**   * Why do you think this Programme will benefit your business? * How have you supported your candidate’s career path so far? * How will you provide the necessary support to allow the candidate to implement their learning within your business? * What is the candidates existing career plan and how would you use this programme supporting that? * How will this benefit the wider sector |
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| **Candidate submission (no more than 400 words)**   * Please provide a quick outline of your career so far, including any training programmes you’ve undertaken * Tell us more about you including interests outside of work * What would you most like to gain from being part of the programme? * If there is anything holding you back that you feel this programme can support you with |
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| **Additional information (no more than 100 words)**  Please provide any further information to support the application |
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