



**The Democracy School** exists to help politicians, public sector managers and activists develop the *political* leadership capacity needed to address complex and often politically sensitive challenges effectively. We do this very successfully through a combination of high-quality research, expert consultancy and our own brand of capacity building.

The School was founded in London in 2003 and until 2013 operated almost exclusively in England where our institutional clients include Cornwall Council, Crawley Borough Council, Essex County Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Waveney District Council. From 2013 onwards we have started supplementing our client-driven work with internally generated projects and between 2013 and 2018 have launched a number of international initiatives, including our European Leadership Initiative ([democracyschool.com/eulead](http://democracyschool.com/eulead)), WePolter ([wepolter.org](http://wepolter.org)) and the ICR Development Process ([refugeecommittee.org](http://refugeecommittee.org)). These initiatives allow us to reach and support activists that we would not otherwise reach. In 2018 we have established a second School in Berlin and have since concentrated all international work there so that the British School now focuses again solely on the UK.

We believe that *political* leadership is first and foremost about 'making sense', because only if we can make sense of the world around us, can we begin to coherently address the many problems the world faces. Furthermore, we believe that the primary means by which political leaders make sense of the world is through 'storytelling'. It is also through the telling and retelling of stories that they are able to give voice to the people they represent and in so doing create a shared sense of purpose and direction – even during times of radical change. Our leadership development (capacity building) work builds on these insights and utilises actual challenges clients face as the context for developing the narratives and counter-narratives that will make it possible to address them effectively.

Complementing our leadership development work we provide a comprehensive range of support services, including social and policy research, conflict management and consensus building, political and educational consultancy, learning process design and facilitation, institutional capacity building, as well as project and programme evaluations.

Additional information about the Democracy School, its philosophy and work is available on request and via our website – see details below. We look forward to hearing from you.