

IOL Strategic Leadership Workshop

Strategic
Leadership is
about developing a
clear direction to
achieving our goals
and considers the
means to get there.

25th - 26th Sept 2026

At Field Studies Council, Preston
Montford, Shrewsbury, Shropshire



Located just outside Shrewsbury and nestled on the banks of the River Severn, Preston Montford is surrounded by rolling countryside with views into Wales.

A 2-day workshop led by Leading Practitioners of the IOL. This is for those with a senior and strategic role in their organisation, or who are seeking to develop their career to take on higher levels of responsibility.

IOL Members - £270

Bookings include lunch on the 25th and 26th,
and pub dinner on the 25th.



Places are limited

More info on following pages

BOOK NOW

IOL Strategic Leadership Workshop 2026

A 2-day workshop led by Leading Practitioners of the IOL. This is for those with a senior and strategic role in their organisation, or who are seeking to develop their career to take on higher levels of responsibility.

The outdoor learning sector is always subject to many influences and challenges, just as we are, in our working environments.

There comes a point when we all realise that leadership is not something to only trust in the hands of others – it is something we must embrace ourselves. We realise we do have the vision, we can inspire, and we can achieve.

Strategic Leadership is about developing a clear direction to achieving our goals and considers the means to get there.

The programme includes shared learning and practical inspirational input to:

- ✓ Learn from the experience and perspectives of other leaders in Outdoor learning
- ✓ Refresh your management skills and gain confidence in your leadership abilities
- ✓ Debate the impact of what is happening beyond the outdoor sector
- ✓ Critically reflect on how your values and beliefs are driving you at work
- ✓ Use reflexive practice and coaching to gain solutions to your current challenges

The IOL Strategic Leadership Workshop is not for everyone. People attending are likely to hold an Accredited Practitioner of the IOL (APIOL) and may be interested in accreditation as a Leading Practitioner of the IOL (LPIOL) or have equivalent experience and/or qualifications.



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Course lead - Glen Probert

Glen is a Senior Fellow and Leading Practitioner of the IOL with over 20 years' worth of experience in outdoor learning, leadership & management. His current role is as the CEO of Blackwell Adventure, an outdoor learning charity based near Birmingham and he also serves as an AAIAC Committee member. Glen has also held regional and national roles with the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres and remains an active member of AHOEC. He is a keen mountain biker and mountaineer with a passion for the high mountains of the Alps and the Himalayas.

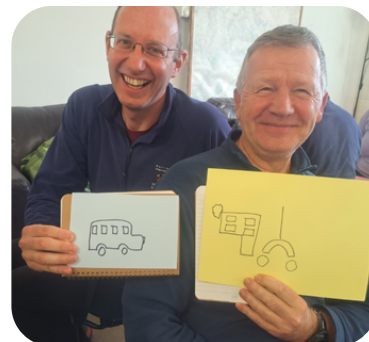
Glen says that



'Outdoor learning has so much to offer our society to make a positive impact yet is often overlooked or misunderstood. This Strategic Leadership course allows us to explore how we strategically lead people and organisations within the outdoor learning sector to collaborate, communicate and support high quality provision with purpose and impact whilst at the same time, confirming what makes us great leaders and considering the future actions we can take in developing outdoor learning for the future.'



IOL Strategic Leadership Workshop 2026



Key info & times

Strategic Leadership Workshop

25 - 26 September 2026

At Field Studies Council, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1DX

Key info

Arrival 9.30am on Friday 25th September with evening session until 9pm. Departure 4.30pm on Saturday 26th September.

Course & Accom Costs

Course & Accommodation Fee

IOL Members - £270 per person (includes lunch on Fri & Sat and evening dinner on Fri).

IOL Membership options both for individuals and organisations can be found here. [Join Us](#)

*Accommodation is not included but can be booked for Thursday and Friday nights

- B&B Single room £35pp per night. Bedding is included. Towels are not provided - please bring.
- B&B Twin room £25pp per night. Bedding is included. Towels are not provided - please bring.
- Caravan club certified site, bookings through [that site](#) (CC Members only @ £26 a night: www.caravanclub.co.uk/certificated-locations/england/shropshire/shrewsbury/FSC-Preston-Montford/).
- Non residents and camping option to book breakfast on Thursday / Friday £7.20pp per day.

About the venue

Venue

The [Preston Montford](#) estate is home to an incredible variety of habitats, from semi-ancient woodland growing on glacial slopes to flower-rich meadows and freshwater ponds. As well as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) along the River Severn, the grounds include a traditional orchard, wildflower meadow, bee hotel, and even the remnants of an 18th-century walled garden. These diverse environments provide an ideal setting for hands-on exploration in biology, geography, and environmental science.

As a popular outdoor activity centre in Shropshire, [Preston Montford](#) also offers a variety of adventure and team-building activities designed to build confidence, resilience, and communication skills. From orienteering and bushcraft to problem-solving challenges and nature-based games, learners are encouraged to engage with the landscape in new ways.

If you would like to extend your stay [Preston Montford](#) makes a great base for exploring a wide range of landscapes across the region; explore the hills of the Long Mynd, Stiperstones, or Berwyns, visit Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, or enjoy the delights of historic Shrewsbury.

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	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Day 1	THE STRATEGIC OUTLOOK • Introductions and objectives • Taking a strategic approach to managing and leading • Sharing of leadership models and methods • Leadership for you	THE OUTDOOR LANDSCAPE • Relevant past events – their impact and our learning • The current environment and the current need? • What is over the horizon? • Making a positive impact in/ through your work?	MAKING CONNECTIONS • Guest speaker • Local pub meal • Informal sharing of experience, challenges & perspectives
Day 2	INFLUENCE & CHANGE • Influencing upwards and inspiring change – where and how to make a difference • How might future success be sabotaged, and what will you do about it? • Communities of Practice	LEADING ACTION • Reflexive Practice • Self-determined learning • Advice on further training experience or the LPIOL • Coaching conversations and action planning	

Testimonials

"An excellent course that definitely had something for everyone, whether you are a seasoned strategic level manager or someone looking to move from day to day management to taking a slightly longer and wider view."

"Good course, some things still to take away and work and think through which is great. Awesome array of people and network opportunities."

"The content of the course was well thought out. Good balance between practical / outdoor & theory / indoors. Well delivered for understanding - at the right level. Thank you - You have given me a lot to think about and lots of ideas & energy going back to work!"

"I think it (this course) would be beneficial to a larger cross section of the IOL Membership."

"This course has really helped me to examine my practice in a supported environment and with strategic thinkers from a variety of OL sectors, and form ideas and approaches to planning the future. I loved the variety of exercises inside and outside, arts based and intellectual. Thank you."

"A superb course that helped me to begin to develop my strategic leadership and my role within the Trust."

"Thank you for a great weekend. I've really enjoyed all the conversations and meeting a lovely bunch of like-minded people."

"Great to walk away from a course feeling inspired."



BOOK NOW

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