

# EMPOWERING YOU

## Catalysts for Positive Change

I have been working for London Borough of Waltham Forest for around 14 years now. I started in the frontline and filled in a diversity of roles, including regulatory areas like, building control and environmental health working my way up to my current role of Head of Digital and ICT Change.

The last 3 years of my career path has been on a steep slope. This timing aligns with when I became part of the first cohort of the Empowering Women in a digital age programme. I was lucky enough to have a management that recognised my potential and talent and put me forward for this leadership programme which has been a life changing event for me personally.



Looking back, I always questioned my own credentials in leading digital and ICT. Being on the course helped me develop an understanding that leadership doesn't necessarily mean acquiring technical skills or expertise (that sometimes already exist in the organisation). It is about an empowered workforce! For me, a leader should trust in the technical skills and expertise of their teams which in turn will help them to trust you to give clear direction.

The course itself provided an amazing opportunity to get to know other like-minded female leaders from other organisations. We very quickly recognised that the fears and challenges that we had identified for ourselves were in fact shared commonly amongst all of us. We all supported and encouraged each other throughout our journey together which was an amazing feeling of women empowerment in itself!

I am still on that journey and lots more to achieve. For me however, it is no longer about job promotions or pay rises, I am now looking for more wider personal and intellectual growth by focussing on mentoring and coaching others, improving my work life balance and a more formal education through a MSc degree that I have just started.

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