

INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICES

TERMS OF REFERENCE THINK TANK



This document outlines the terms of reference for ICiPS think tank, with the primary objective of developing thinking, conducting research, and influencing policy in relation to public services, where the private and third sector are at the forefront of delivery.

The thinktank will act as conduit, to bring thought leaders together to share experience and knowledge, to enhance leverage and influence, and provide a strong basis for research.

The think tank will be A-political, and function independently, but it will seek and work in partnership and in collaboration with relevant organisations, institutions, and experts.

Type of entity

Non-Executive and Volunteer Group of Leaders

Mission

The thinktank mission is to advance knowledge, foster informed dialogue, and influence policy through rigorous research and analysis, to address challenges to the provision of essential public services, where the third and private sectors are integral to front line delivery.

The thinktank will strive to empower decision-makers, inspire action, and contribute to the betterment of society, by presenting a united expert voice, providing evidence-based research and making policy recommendations.

The scope of the think tank's work shall include but not be limited to:

- Gathering and assimilating expert views and emerging developments
- Analysing data
- Develop themes and promote these for further consideration.
- Developing innovative policy proposals and recommendations, striving to empower decision-makers, with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed, forward-thinking choices.
- Providing expert consultation to policymakers, stakeholders and the public, raising awareness of critical issues
- Undertaking cutting edge and evidence-based research to address the most pressing challenges, seeking creative and practical solutions.
- Organising conferences, seminars and public events to disseminate findings.

Scope

The think tank will consider any essential front-line service, where the public sector has a policy interest, but either the private or third sector deliver the front-line service.

Essential is defined as a service without which, an individual is more likely than not to suffer issues with their wellbeing.

Key areas of research interest

Research will either be commissioned or undertaken in partnership with academic institutions. ICiPS will attempt to secure grants and sponsorship to fund the research.

The initial focus of research will include:

- Developing services around lived experience.
- The impact of policy making on service delivery
- Using failure to improve delivery.

The research will be adjusted to reflect common areas of interest that arise from events and experiences raised by think tank members.

Membership

Membership will be by invitation by ICIPS Board, unsolicited approaches will be considered. The Think Tank will comprise of key stakeholders with credible backgrounds and a willingness to contribute voluntarily in a quarterly interactive meetings and workshops. Stakeholders will represent a broad range of stakeholder segments, including (but not limited to):

- Public sector organisations
- NGOs
- Charities
- Business representatives

Nominees shall serve in the Think Tank for 3 years, a term which could be renewed depending on availability and continued relevance to the Thinktanks mission.

Funding

ICIPS will work to secure funding for the thinktank, from diverse source including ICIPS, grants, sponsorship and partnerships. Financial management shall adhere to strict accounting standards and practices and will be accounted for as part of ICIPS returns.

Collaboration

ICIPS, on behalf of the think tank, will actively engage and collaborate with a diverse network of stakeholders including policy makers, research institutions, government agencies, non-governmental organisations and experts in the field, to promote active knowledge sharing and to enhance the impact of its research.

It shall also engage in active outreach to policymakers, media, and the public to disseminate its findings effectively.

Ethics and integrity

Thinktank members will uphold the highest standards of ethics, transparency, and integrity in all its activities, maintaining independence and objectivity, and offering impartial insights and recommendations that transcend political, economic and ideological boundaries. Research methods shall be transparent and verifiable.

Amendments to the terms of reference

These terms of reference may be amended as necessary with the approval of think tank members and ICIPS Board of Directors. Any proposed change must be consistent with the think tank's mission and goals.