



PRESS RELEASE
7 May 2014

LEEDS TEAMS GIVEN 48 HOURS TO ROCK THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Public sector innovators will link up with counterparts all over the world as part of an event coming to Leeds for the first time next month.

Now in its fourth year, the Global GovJam is a high-energy 48-hour challenge for anyone who wants to make public services better while learning new design tools and techniques.

Up to 50 people will take part at the Open Data Institute Node in Duke Street, Leeds, on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 June.

Participants will use social media to swap ideas with teams in other countries, including Brazil, Canada, Germany, Taiwan and the USA - all inspired by a shared theme kept secret until the start of the event.

The emphasis is on doing, not talking. Everyone is encouraged to come up with improvements to public services, make prototypes to show how they would work, and take to the streets to ask their fellow citizens what they think of them.

Matt Edgar, a service design and innovation consultant who is organising the Leeds event said:

“From highways and street cleaning to health and social care, everyone experiences public services. What’s more, tens of thousands of people in our city work to deliver them every day. We think they deserve the best design, and are really excited to be bringing GovJam to Leeds for the first time.

“We’re delighted to have people joining in from Leeds City Council, the NHS and central government. But you don’t have to work in the public sector to take part – GovJam is open to anyone with an interest in service design and improving public services.”

Registration for Leeds GovJam is open now at leedsgovjam.wordpress.com.

ENDS

Notes to editors

For further information contact:

Matt Edgar, matt@mattedgar.com, 07964 763252

Follow [@LeedsGovJam](https://twitter.com/LeedsGovJam) on Twitter

LEEDS GOVJAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Global GovJam?

GovJam is a global event which applies tools and techniques of service design to the world of government and the public sector. Working around a common theme, small teams meet at multiple locations, working for 48 hours to prototype innovative approaches to challenges faced by the public sector. At the end of the two days, they upload their results and publish them for the world.

Who is it for?

Anyone and everyone with an interest in public services and making them better. We have interest from people working in local authorities, the NHS, national government departments, as well as the private and voluntary sectors. What they all have in common is a curiosity to try new ways of working together around public sector opportunities and issues.

Who is running the event in Leeds?

The event is run by volunteers, many of whom also organise Global Service Jam and Global Sustainability Jam events. The hosts in Leeds are service design consultants Matt Edgar and Kathryn Grace, founders of the Service Design Leeds networking group, and Valentina Vezzani, co-founder of PACO Design Collaborative and a visiting research fellow at the School of Design of University of Leeds. Additional volunteers are always welcome to join the team.

Where will it be hosted?

The Leeds GovJam will take place in an exciting new space opening up for the Leeds City Region Node of the Open Data Institute. It's on the third floor on Munro House, the same building where we ran the Leeds Service Jam in 2013.

What will happen?

The jam will run over two days – Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th June 2014.

Day 1 – morning: make introductions, reveal Global GovJam secret theme, split into teams to work on service concepts around the theme.

Day 1 – afternoon: develop service concepts into prototypes that can be tested with real users – citizens and government workers.

Day 2 – morning: continue to develop the concepts, trying out new tools and techniques to design and communicate them.

Day 2 – afternoon: finalise presentations and prototypes, upload them to the Global GovJam site and demonstrate them in a show and tell to other participants and special guests.

What can I expect to see?

Lots of activity! The emphasis is on doing, not talking, and on usable prototypes, not slick presentations. Service jam participants often surprise themselves with how much they can achieve together in a short space of time, and with how quickly they can make a prototype that elicits valuable feedback from potential service users.

What's included in the ticket price?

We'll provide the venue, materials, lots of service design tools and tips, and the support of mentors to help teams make the most of the jam. There will also be snacks and lunch provided on both days. All we ask you to bring is yourself, your passion for improving

government services, and an openness to trying new techniques. The event is run by volunteers, and nobody makes a profit from it.

What is the value?

The purpose of the jam is to create a safe space for learning and trying new tools and techniques. At the end of the jam, many teams also have service prototypes they can be proud of, but the main thing is that everyone has had fun, learned new ways of doing things and is enthused about taking something from the jam back into their everyday work.

How can it benefit my organisation/department/team?

GovJam is a great way to find out more about service design and how it can make a difference to your public, private or voluntary sector organisation. We welcome participants as individuals and in groups from the same workplace. Where you come as a group we'll encourage you to split up across different teams to make the most of the learning and networking opportunities available.

What happens to the stuff we make during the jam?

All works will be licensed under Creative Commons. The team that made them is free to develop their ideas further after the jam, but the results of the jam itself must be open.

Can my organisation sponsor the Leeds GovJam?

The event is run by volunteers, and nobody makes a profit from it. Sponsors and supporters help us keep costs down, and open up new possibilities. To discuss how your organisation could help to make Leeds GovJam even better, please get in touch.

How can I find out more?

Visit leedsgovjam.wordpress.com. You can also follow [@LeedsGovJam](https://twitter.com/LeedsGovJam) on Twitter (hashtags #LeedsGovJam for Leeds and #GGovJam for the global event), or contact Matt Edgar (matt@mattedgar.com / 07964 763252) to find out more.

Where else in the world is GovJam happening?

Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Singapore, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan, UAE, UK, USA and more. There's a growing list of GovJam sites at <http://www.govjam.org/>