Government CAMPUS

Working with Agile

'Agile' is an alternative approach to project management that is being used increasingly often across the Civil Service. It typically features tasks being undertaken in short, sharp bursts of activity and plans being frequently reassessed and adapted.

Working in this incremental, iterative way means that less work is wasted if something suddenly changes during a project. It also means that some of the beneficial outcomes of a project can be realised as it progresses, rather than only at the end.

Description

Working on an Agile project can be a very different experience to working in a traditional project management environment. For that reason, this topic aims to introduce you to the fundamental concepts of working with agile, its processes and vocabulary and the benefits it can bring. It is designed to help you understand what it means to work in an Agile environment and to define the ways in which it can be correctly applied across a range of government scenarios.

The skills and knowledge acquired in this topic can subsequently be developed further by becoming a qualified Agile Practitioner. Those skills can then be applied in many different roles and activities, generating greater productivity in both Agile and non-Agile projects.

What does it involve?

This digital topic delivers a beginner's guide to the theory behind Agile working. Through a series of online tutorials, you'll find out what it's like to work in an Agile environment. You'll learn about the terminology of Agile and hear about case studies where it has been used effectively.

You'll discover what's involved in a Stand-up, a Show-and-Tell, a Retrospective and a Backlog and the important part they play in communication, measuring progress, reflection and continual planning.

These tutorials, none of which last more than 10 minutes, can be slotted in and around your work commitments. They should take an hour in total to complete, after which there is further 30 minute reflective task for you to undertake, aimed at embedding what you have learned through a discussion with your manager.

What's the outcome?

By completing this topic, you'll be able to recognise and feel comfortable working with agile practices, such as working in sprints. You'll appreciate how Agile can be used to improve both customer engagement and our chances of successful project delivery. Able to articulate the benefits of an Agile culture, you'll be part of the Civil Service's improved capacity for successful project delivery.