Edward Jenner Leadership for Veterinary Professionals

A programme by the NHS Leadership Academy, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and FutureLearn

Executive Summary

The NHS Leadership Academy partnered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) to deliver the *Edward Jenner Leadership for Veterinary Professionals* programme on online social learning platform, FutureLearn. This programme is getting to the heart of a critical lack of leadership skills in veterinary practice by equipping learners with these skills and helping them rethink their importance.

The intervention comprises two online courses with a final assessment and is supported by innovative audio drama, 'Glenvern', which faithfully portrays the leadership challenges vets encounter in daily practice.

Inspired by the RCVS and British Veterinary Association's bold VetFutures programme, and its report: *Taking charge of our future: A vision for the veterinary profession for 2030*, the intervention addresses the need for 'exceptional leadership' in veterinary practice — one of six ambitions identified by the report as part of a shared vision for the profession by 2030.

Across the first two runs of the course over 5,000 learners enrolled from over 130 countries. Put into context, there are 23,000 practising veterinary surgeons in the UK, meaning it has had significant levels of reach already.

The programme constitutes approximately 48 hours of learning — far exceeding the 35 hours of mandatory continuing professional development practitioners are required to evidence annually.

For the second course in the pilot, 100% of learners said they "would recommend the course to a colleague" and 95% said they "felt the programme had equipped them to be more effective leaders". Qualitative feedback (included here throughout) has commended the quality of learning resources; the enhancing effect on learners' critical understanding of leadership; and the practical influence the programme has had on leadership behaviours.

The programme page on FutureLearn can be viewed here.