

Diary of Leadership

A Reflection Journal | January-June 2026

Sometimes you do not go looking for ideas.
Ideas come looking for you.



As I reflected on community gatherings, conferences, leadership hui, and conversations about connection, belonging, and service, I realised that one simple notebook had quietly brought these reflections together and transformed them into something meaningful.

One weekday in May 2026, I bought this notebook from a stationery shop. I loved the colours and design, but when I brought it home, it felt incomplete. I opened a collection of quotations that I had gathered over the years and chose a few that resonated with me.

Make Yourself Proud. Your Dream Is Achievable. Don't Give Up. Work Hard & Be Nice. Give Yourself Grace. Grow Through What You Go Through.

At first, they seemed like individual messages.

Then I stepped back and realised they were telling a story.

What fascinated me was that when I read them in reverse, they became a journey.

Grow Through What You Go Through. Give Yourself Grace. Work Hard & Be Nice. Don't Give Up. Your Dream Is Achievable. Make Yourself Proud.

The quotations were chosen in minutes.

The meaning behind them took years.

Years of accomplishments and achievements.

Years of experiences.

And above all, years of learning.

What struck me most was the contrast between the cover and the pages inside. The cover is colourful, expressive, and filled with messages. The inside is plain, simple, and blank.

It reminded me that leadership is often like that.

People see the outside, our roles, achievements, and accomplishments. Yet the real work happens on the inside through our values, intentions, character, and the choices we make every day.

Unlike conventional diaries that keep their notes hidden inside, I placed mine on the cover.

To be seen.

To be felt.

To be reflected upon.

As I looked at the notebook, I realised that leadership is not about looking different.

It is about making a difference.

Over recent months, I have met inspiring people, listened to different perspectives, participated in meaningful conversations, and reflected on what it means to contribute to communities. Looking back, I realised that some of the most valuable lessons were not found in presentations or programmes alone. They emerged through reflection.

Sometimes a simple object can become a mirror.

A notebook became a reminder that growth often happens quietly. That resilience is built one step at a time. That kindness matters. That dreams remain possible. That giving ourselves grace is just as important as working hard.

The pages inside remain blank, and that may be my favourite part.

The cover contains lessons learned so far.

The blank pages remind me that the story is still unfolding.

Perhaps that is how simple ideas become significant.

Perhaps that is how a reader becomes a leader.

And perhaps the lesson is simple:

When life gives you something ordinary, turn it into something meaningful.

The story is still unfolding.