

Practical support for collaborative working

A one day workshop (10am to 4pm) running in various locations

13 July Millfields Development Trust, Plymouth

15 July The Campus, Weston-Super-Mare

27 July Community Learning Centre, Wimborne

28 July East Reach House, Taunton

Why is this training needed?

Regeneration initiatives that involve a range of organisations and sectors are the norm. The more cross-cutting and difficult the issue, the more likely it is that solutions will depend on collaborative approaches. This is challenging work, requiring those involved to have a range of specific skills and knowledge, and to work in ways that can be very different to those they are used to. Yet few people have all the skills, knowledge and tools to engage in this work to the best effect. The result is the majority have to 'muddle through' and so poor practice in collaborative working is widespread.

This training focuses on building participants' understanding of and ability to create and use a range of absolutely practical, tangible, processes, products and 'props' that directly support better quality collaborative working. All of the material covered is entirely generic, ie. it will be of use in any collaborative setting.



Who is the training for?

This all day event will be of help to anyone whose job is wholly or partly about working collaboratively with other organisations, including people:

- Who work with organisations from their own sector, or in settings where public, voluntary and private sectors need to work together.
- Involved in collaborative approaches ranging from 'light touch' networks through to full partnerships.
- Engaged in collaborative work at either strategic and/or practical levels.
- Seeking to improve 'joined up' working within their own organisation.

The day is aimed specifically at people who already have some experience of collaborative working and who wish to increase their effectiveness in such work. It will be of particular interest to people who already have some understanding/experience of working with facilitated and participative approaches at meetings, as one area of focus is how to get more out of the meetings of collaborative alliances.

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Format of the day

The day will comprise a stimulating mix of content input and 'learning by doing'. There will be opportunities for participants to reflect and work on their own real issues.

What will the training cover?

The focus of the day will be 100% on what are believed to be the important but much neglected practical actions and 'props' that underpin successful collaborative working. The material springs directly from extensive experience of working to support collaboration in multi-agency settings.

The training will, to some extent, also increase participants' understanding of why the practical actions are so necessary, so they leave better equipped to analyse situations rather than just respond to them.

The workshop will cover:

- Using visioning and 'backcasting' techniques to help people reach agreement on goals and on how to reach those goals.
- Why paying attention to the 'human level' of any collaborative alliance or project is so important and how to do it.
- The importance of communication, of all kinds, at all levels and practical tips on making good communication a reality.
- Considering the various ways that work actually gets done within collaborative projects and how to support the most effective approaches.
- Why documents and presentations for meetings are so important and how to make them support effective dialogue.
- Making meeting agendas and minutes useful, relevant (and interesting!) documents that positively support collaborative working.

These events are free (and we can even help you get to them*!)

Lunch, tea and coffee are all included.

**Through our participation fund we are able to assist with travel expenses for a number of places for voluntary and community sector delegates and creating:excellence members. Please contact us for further details.*

Places are limited so please book early. You can also book by email.

Booking form

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Places are (very) limited so please book early. If booking by email, please include all the information requested here. Our address and contact details are below. Please note that you must inform us within 5 working days of the event if you cannot attend or there is a cancellation fee of £15.

Delegate Name

Organisation

Postal Address

Telephone Number

Email Address

Which event are you booking for?

Plymouth, 13 July Weston-Super-Mare, 15 July Wimborne, 27 July Taunton, 28 July

Do you have any particular dietary or access requirements?

Participation Fund Details

I represent a voluntary and community/not-for-profit organisation and would like to apply for the participation fund to assist with travel costs. Please send me further details of how to claim.

Contact Details for bookings and enquiries

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