



COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY

A PROBLEM SHARED, IS A PROBLEM HALVED

DURATION: approx. 60-90 mins

PURPOSE:

This activity encourages people to recognise that solutions to problems can come from outside their own area of expertise

PREPARATION:

This activity can either be done by asking people in advance to come with a problem or issue that they have, however small it may be.

Or, you could get people in groups to identify an issue on the day.

You may want to plan the groups in advance (see below)

STEPS:

1. Split the team into smaller groups of 3-6 people (or stay as one team if less than 6)
2. Ideally try to mix up people away from their usual work team/area of specialism
3. Tell Individuals in the groups to take turns explaining the problem or sharing their issue* whilst the rest of the group listen and then offer ideas for how they might deal with it or things they've seen/done elsewhere (10-15 mins pp)
4. Ask the group to practise effective listening and to suspend judgement on ideas offered by others
5. Individuals note the ideas they have been given and look to test one/any out

*If opting to identify problems on the day, allow the group 15 minutes to generate ideas for problems to work on

SUGGESTED FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES:

- Ask the group if anyone would be happy to share their problem with the wider group
- Ask the whole group to offer their ideas/advice/suggestions
- Utilise this methodology for future problem solving in the team
- Ask the team to carry out the activity with colleagues from other teams/services/faculties

COLLABORATIVE



Accountable,
Committed,
Relationship builders

"We work together as a community with our partners and build lasting relationships to achieve our shared ambition."

WHAT ROLE MODELS DO:

- **Accountable** - Take ownership of our own work & our impact on others.
- **Committed** - Share information & knowledge with others.
- **Relationship Builders** - Work effectively in our own teams but also involve others outside of our immediate teams or the University.

LEADERS ALSO:

- **Accountable** - Explain the why behind decisions & own the outcome.
- **Committed** - Make regular contact with their team to share information & listen & include others in decision-making & tasks.
- **Relationship Builders** - Make space for real collaboration to happen, within or outside the University, bringing the right people together.