

Being Friends Together

Ways of Working > Ways of Working with Groups

Detailed guidance for chat rooms

Chat room conversations take place in groups of up to 15 people, with participants free to circulate around the rooms as they wish – the aim is to get people thinking and looking at another perspective on a topic or theme

Chat room activity

The aim of this activity is for the groups to explore and learn together and through this gain an insight, understanding and respect for each other.

Chat rooms are conversations that take place in groups of [up to] 15 participants. The ideas, findings and issues are recorded on large sheets of paper. Participants can circulate around the rooms as they wish – however it is helpful to provide a reminder and opportunity to do this every 20 minutes. The conversations are recorded on a large sheet of paper. As new people join the chat room they can see on this sheet how the conversation has been progressing. Each table should have one individual who is willing to remain at the table. They host the ongoing conversations building links between the different strands of conversation.

You could approach this activity by having a focus on a theme, or by looking at a range of topics. Each table should have a person prepared to act as the link and facilitate the conversations. The intention of this is to get people thinking and looking at another perspective on a topic or theme.

[Decide on the number of chat rooms you will use by allowing approximately one chat room space (marked by a circle of chairs or cushions, or a table and chairs) per five to eight participants. Encourage participants to ensure there are at least four people in each chatroom at any time. With eight participants or fewer, you may prefer to remain in one group.

Place copies of topic sheets/handouts in each chat room. If your session offers more than one topic sheet/handout, place different ones in each chat room (or choose which one to focus on first, if you are working in one group). The topic sheets/handouts are not read aloud but simply made available for chat room participants to read or dip into, as a prompt for conversation. You can add your own topic sheets/handouts, for example by using extracts from resources in the discussion option on this topic.]

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<http://bit.ly/journeys-connecting-as-a-community>

<http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk>



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