DESKTOP ACTION LEARNING: EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Summary of Activity

Online actions learning sets have been run, the experience evaluated, and the deliverables from the project have been posted on the SDF website. They include:

- Introductory page
- Powerpoint presentation
- Substantial guidance materials on the technical and facilitational aspects of online action learning

Evaluation of the Project Against Aims and Objectives

The overall aim was to allow more people to participate in action learning sets.

The project established very clearly that online action learning works; its use is being taken forward through a range of engagements with national and international bodies.

Here is a screenshot from a project steering group meeting that used the same technology as the – confidential – sets...
Objectives

1. To gain experience in running desktop action learning sets
2. To capture the knowledge and skills from this experience
3. To develop guidance based on the knowledge and skills
4. To develop a cadre of staff able to facilitate desktop action learning
5. To engage with interested parties across the sector to share techniques for running desktop action learning sets

These objectives have been achieved

1. Our experience of running online action learning sets reveals interesting differences from face-to-face sets, but they are certainly action learning sets
2. The knowledge and skills from this experience were captured through a thorough evaluation process...
3. ...which contributed greatly to the development of guidance based on the experience of running the sets
4. We now have a small cadre of staff able to facilitate desktop action learning
5. We have engaged, and are continuing to engage, with interested parties across the sector and are willing to offer further opportunities to experience online action learning

If you are interested in talking about this please contact Andy Wilson (d.a.wilson@lboro.ac.uk)

Benefits of the Project

The resources will allow interested parties to understand the technical, social and facilitational aspects of online action learning. Experienced face-to-face facilitators should have little difficulty transferring to the online mode of working.

Online action learning offers huge benefits in terms of time, cost and carbon.

Dissemination Activities

Presentations have been delivered to Vitae. ODG, SDF and IFAL (International Foundation for Action Learning) conferences. Many informal demonstrations have been – and continue to be – provided.

Conclusions

Online action learning works.
It provides a valuable developmental tool, especially for those involved with distributed groups or networks.

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