



The Open
University

London Boroughs' Faith Network

Lessons from the first ten years a one-day workshop

20th June 2013

Open University, London
1-11 Hawley Crescent, NW1 8NP

Please confirm attendance by 15th June, by sending the first completed activity

Introduction

The purpose of this workshop will be to elicit, share and bring together narratives of the multi-faith collaboration experience in London. Instrumental in that process will be professional colleagues working with each other in order to surface important experiences and issues based on their own expertise.

Catriona Robertson of the LBFN and Dr. Haider Ali of the Open University are organizing and facilitating the workshop.

The workshop will enable LBFN to capture the experiences of participants, while also providing everyone with an insightful learning experience.

We hope to publish a short report summarizing the outcomes from the day and disseminate the findings more widely e.g. on the LBFN website and via a research paper.

As resources throughout the sector shrink, as posts are cut and priorities change, there is a real risk of a lot of learning and experience being lost. We hope this even will address that in a modest way. The challenge is significant – so the day will be intense and there are also some activities beforehand.

As a result we hope that it will be productive and stimulating for everyone concerned.

The workshop will enable participants to

- Self-reflect and to provide a rich and focused narrative of their experience (pre-workshop activity)
- Leverage the experience and knowledge of other participants in order to develop additional depth and detail of those narratives via one-to-one interviews
- Share the knowledge arising from the interviews with broader groups of participants (via focus groups) in order to assess the applicability of those experiences to other settings
- Interpret and combine the knowledge that has been shared through the creation of diagrams that capture the ideas that have previously been discussed
- Assess important influences on their work and consider likely factors that may impact on it in the future

This document contains

- A timetable for the whole day
- Details of the different workshop sessions

Workshop organisation

- The workshop comprises various activities
- There are 3 activities that take place before the start of the workshop, this is to ensure that the day is as productive as possible
- On the day you may find it helpful to bring a laptop with you and also an audio recording device (many mobile phones will have them).



Workshop Sessions and Activities

Pre Workshop Activity

Activity One – deadline 15th June

Please write down (between 250 and 500 words) your thoughts, opinions and experiences relating to any one aspect of your faith forum's work that you have personally been involved with in the past 10 years.

Please write this on a MS Word document by the 15th June and send to:

haider.ali@open.ac.uk

The information you provide will initially be passed onto one of the other participants who is attending. They will formulate the interview questions that they want to ask you, on a one to one basis, based on what you have written here.

Activity Two – material to bring with you on the 20th June

Please identify a Significant Object relating to your narrative – a photograph, artefact, or publication – to bring to the Workshop.

One of the sessions will involve people talking about their Significant Objects.

Activity Three – material to bring with you on the 20th June

On the 16th June you will be sent a one page written narrative from one of the other participants coming to this workshop. Please read this before you attend.

The first activity in the workshop will involve participants interviewing each other for about 30 minutes. The narrative you have been supplied with relates to your interviewee's work. Please read this narrative and formulate some questions. These questions can be about:

- areas where you'd like more clarity or detail
- more information about the problems encountered or solutions devised
- alternative methods that the interviewee could have used, whether they were considered and why they may have been rejected
- the interviewee's response to your own assessment of the situation they have written about
- how the lessons learnt in that context could be applicable elsewhere



Workshop – 20th June

Activity One - Interviews

For the first half of this session you will either be an interviewee or an interviewer. The interviews will focus on the pre workshop narratives that were provided. In the second half of the workshop you will change roles and interviewees will become interviewers. Note - you may not necessarily be working with the person you worked with in the first half.

When you play the role of interviewer, please use the questions that you formulated before the workshop. As the interview proceeds please note any issues/ideas that occur to you – that you'd like to discuss in more detail in the next, focus group session.

Activity Two – Focus Groups

So far you have had a chance to write down your own experiences and also to find out in depth from another person about theirs. In this session you will be sharing what you consider to be key findings from the previous session with other people and hearing their opinions about these.

Activity Three – Posters

So far you have worked in pairs and groups of 8. The activities have involved making notes, talking and listening and generating material.

Now, in groups of 4, we will try and bring together what has been done so far through the creation of diagrams, flowcharts, pictures (whatever you prefer) in order to identify what you think are some of the key ideas that have arisen so far and perhaps the relationships between them.

Activity Four – Comments on posters

This activity will take place over lunch. If you have any comments about any of the posters, please make them using the post-it notes provided.

Activity Six – Significant Objects

In this plenary session we will hear from some participants about their Significant Objects and the session will also give others the chance to ask questions.

Activity Seven – Writing up

Working in small groups participants will consider the events that have influenced their work over the past 10 years and consider what developments may affect their work in the future.

Activity Eight – Plenary & debrief

A short discussion on what we have covered today and looking to the future.



Timetable

Timing	Session	Activity	Outputs
5 th June to 15 th June	Pre Session Preparation Writing a summary	One page summary of the organisation's activity/project, detailing who it involved, what they did and what the outcomes were, focusing on those issues that they think are most interesting*. This will be circulated in advance to another participant who will conduct a short interview.	Summaries
	Reading a summary	Participants will be sent a one-page summary of another project and the first activity will involve asking the author of that document about specific aspects of that project that the <i>interviewer finds interesting based on their own experiences.</i>	Questions
20 th June 0930 - 1000	Registration & Coffee		
1000 - 1045	Interviews (working in pairs)	Face-to-face depth interviews of participants by each other. Interviews are taped. Interviewers are expected to identify 1-3 interesting issues – about which they will expand in the focus groups. Each person interviews one other person and then switches role.	Interview transcripts
1045 - 1130	Focus groups (2 groups of 8 people)	Each focus group participant explains the one key issue they identified from their interviews and others discuss its relevance/validity to their own context.	Focus group transcripts
1130 - 1215	Posters (4 groups of 4 people)	Participants prepare posters summarizing the main processes and issues in different projects.	Charts
1215 – 1330	Lunch & poster presentations	People can comment on the four posters using post-it notes.	Amended posters
1330 - 1430	Significant Objects	A plenary discussion with Questions & Answers about the Significant Objects that participants have brought with them	
1430 - 1500	Tea break & writing up	People work in groups of 3 and using laptops write up the issues that emerged from the day and implications for the future.	Write-ups
1500 - 1545	Discussion of narratives		
1545 - 1630	Plenary & Debrief	Debrief, next steps and addressing the future	

*interesting is shorthand for the following descriptors: valuable, insightful, learning experience, exemplar for others, what not to do i.e. anything that you consider worth asking about in more detail.