

4a2

Opportunity Providers Network

Do

Arrange or attend regular meetings where people from similar community agencies meet and talk.

Story

A Vocational Providers Network was launched in January 2003 in south London with quarterly meetings that included a 45 minute coffee break so people can talk to each other. By early 2004, the membership had grown to 100 individuals

representing 40 organisations. Members can give presentations to raise awareness of the opportunities that are available.

A network of this kind, like other kinds of partnership working, means that all participants have an investment in the success of the work.

4a2

Opportunity Providers Network

Hints & Hazards

A large meeting can reduce feedback on what people actually think and generate a 'popular view' on things. This popular view might or might not be helpful to people who need support.

Rather than starting a new network, an alternative approach is to locate existing groups that meet to share information and visit or join them to take information and advice to members.