



The Challenge

An engaging collaborative event for 90 people to be designed in less than 4 weeks for 30 project teams in a competitive process

This large scale workshop was designed for the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) to support a research programme. Teams had submitted initial interest in the research call and the event was designed to give them space to develop their thinking and to shape the proposals. The intention was to also develop a community of practice.



“Dedicated time and energy to spend on idea and with bid partners and with inspiration from others”

Each team developed a model to help them explain their project concept to others – this helped create a shared understanding and language of the different projects. It also helped down barriers between teams and encouraged collaboration



“Provided a creative space for us to explore, question and develop our ideas. Facilitators worked really hard”

Exploring the themes – the ideas were shaped and shared by groups to developed a shared vision for the overall objectives of the research funding



“we have gained invaluable feedback which has helped us to shape our project”

“good to get feedback on particular aspects of our ideas”

“lots of critical friend analysis of our ideas, resulting in refined proposals and plans”

Critical evaluation: the teams gave each other feedback on their project plan and evaluation strategies against the shared vision for the research funding.



Each team then developed an overview of their project and its objectives in a standard format so that others could easily see the information



“Enjoyed the session with the HEFCE visitors – useful questions asked”

The Big Exhibition – the final session was an exhibition opportunity for the teams to share the development of their project with funders and other senior managers.



“Thank you for all your hard work and help over the past 4 weeks to make the workshop a success in such a short timeframe.

It was a pleasure working with you , you were all very professional, helpful and flexible throughout the whole process - from designing the workshop to the delivery”

After the event all teams submitted proposals for projects and these were much higher quality than usual and this helped the decision making process. The funding team felt that all the project teams had understood the wider vision for the research funding and had done their best to present their ideas so that they were relevant to the funding requirements.

If you would like to discuss a large scale critical event with us then do get in contact:

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