VoluntaryActionIslington

Networks

Effective network checklist

How fit for purpose are the networks that your support and development organisation helps?

Characteristic	✔
1. Does the network have a clear purpose?	
Which of these functions does it carry out?	
▪ Communication	
▪ Idea sharing	
▪ Information sharing	
▪ Representation of communities	
▪ Lobbying	
▪ Influencing service design	
▪ Data collection and feeding in expertise	
▪ Service delivery	
▪ Pooling resources	
▪ Developing collaborative bids	
2. Do members of the network see a benefit in being part of it ?	
▪ Are the relevant organisations members?	
▪ Do they contribute and participate?	
▪ Do colleagues such as commissioners in other sectors see the benefits of the network and use it?	
3. Is the network well connected across boundaries?	
To whom are network members connected? **How well connected are they?**	
▪ Commissioners	

▪ Service users	
▪ Local infrastructure	
▪ Local service providers	
▪ Service user representation organisations	
▪ Representatives on public partnerships	
▪ Procurement departments	
▪ Local compact workers	
▪ Funding officers	
▪ Elected members	
▪ Private sector service providers	
▪ Media	
▪ Other stakeholders	
4. Does the network have good communication methods?	
▪ Face-to-face meetings	
▪ Email communication/online information sharing	
▪ Circulation of relevant commissioning information and opportunities	
▪ Interactive communications	
▪ Members are able to tap into other members' wider connections	
5. Is the network well resourced?	
6. Does the network have good leadership, direction and support?	
7. Do network members have good understanding of other network members' skills, expertise and connections?	
8. Anything else to strengthen the network?	

(Source: NAVCA)