

EVALUATION - comments

Legal Empowerment Conference

10 February 2010 at Inmarsat Global, London

Keynote Address - Lord Bach

Delegate responses to “What were the most useful points made?” during Lord Bach’s session:

- Commitment to PLE from Ministry of Justice (MoJ)
- Good to keep the expectations of government high
- Continued support of MoJ
- That Ministry of Justice can’t lead the agenda
- I don’t doubt his personal commitment but it was hard not to be cynical about MoJ input given their record on Legal Aid. Would they fund a centre for PLE?
- The need to convince the Conservatives of PLE, then call to group action
- Info re online advice space they hope to develop

Theatre ADAD with Karen Kirkwood

Delegate comments on the Theatre ADAD session:

- Really showed how creative interactive sessions could increase the impact of, and enjoyment of PLE. Particularly liked the housing/homelessness dramatisation – v relevant
- It would have been useful to link the discussion on the presentations to PLE delivery – i.e. relevant effectiveness of different models
- Too easy to focus on law. Remember an individual has a say
- Housing sketch really brought out lots of issues
- It was useful to have an interactive example of PLE for us to debate
- Good interaction and good choice of topics
- Fantastic, enjoyable, impactful
- Brilliant example of bringing legal issues to life and sparking discussion
- Excellent! Exciting! Very useful for us in terms of thinking about how to engage at hearts and feelings level (confidence-building)

- Thought-provoking and highlighted the emotional issues facing young people who may have legal problems and the very difficult decisions they face because of the perceived/actual impact of taking action ostensibly to try and improve situation.

Sarah McCoubrey - Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN)

Delegate comments on Sarah McCoubrey table talk session:

- Comparative perspective excellent – speaker v. knowledgeable and inspiring
- Inspiring to hear about the projects
- Interesting information about Canada but session was not very interactive. The speaker dominated proceedings – hardly any time to address group discussion and feedback
- Inspiring
- Very clear presentation of huge initiative
- Fascinating to see how another jurisdiction deals with PLE
- Practical examples, clear idea of what can be achieved
- The combination of Karen and Sarah was excellent – two approaches underlined the fact that there are different approaches that will be successful
- Engaging and entertaining talk, full of ideas and thoughts to take away
- Great to hear about the project but in view of the focus on interactive methods, a little more interaction with the audience in the session would have been good

Panel Session

Delegate comments on the panel session:

- 3 minutes was great, lots of time for audience participation
- Rather stilted but some good points made
- Good discussion and exchange of ideas
- Interesting questions and answers. Wasn't sure it was chaired very well

Aspect(s) of the conference found most useful

Responses to “Which aspect(s) of this event did you find most useful?”

- I think this is a fantastic initiative to get people together working on legal education/empowerment – heard so many inspirational ideas and stories and made great contacts. Thank you!
- Different approaches to delivering PLE particularly the Canadian approach
- Minister's plenary and networking opportunity
- I found the Canadian and Australian positions v. useful – also to meet other people with whom we could work / mutual support of projects
- The theatre and networking – exchange of ideas

- Hearing from Sarah, and the theatre group
- Networking and detailed examination of PLE nationally and internationally
- All
- Description of PLE projects. Wondering why there are not more grassroots organisations e.g. in restorative justice
- Lessons from Canada
- Networking and informal discussion. Also findings of LSRC survey
- Networking, new ideas. Also knowing many people agree on ways/need to go forward and there may be hope of forming new groups.
- Canadian experiences and theatre workshop
- Three things
 - 1) when talking to large groups, put questions back to audience;
 - 2) Gill Hind's 10 top tips given in her workshop – brilliant;
 - 3) that what we do at College of Law is very good and on track
- Theatre ADAD and Sarah McCoubrey's session
- I thought Sarah McCoubrey was an excellent speaker and the comparative perspective was a very important aspect to the conference

Responses to Workshops

1. Advice and Legal Services prevention and early intervention

Responses to “what learning or actions will you take away from this workshop?”

- Thought a good session – the discussion afterwards was very broad but helpful to a newcomer to PLE. Would like to have seen the project materials for the project discussed
- More understanding of PLE and how it compares internationally
- Evaluation/monitoring tools/methods, methods of communication/publicising

2. Youth justice approaches - working with marginalised young people

No comments.

3. Poverty and human rights: PLE approaches to empowerment and anti-discrimination

Responses to “what learning or actions will you take away from this workshop?”

- Empowerment of vulnerable client groups
- Discuss how human rights can influence our programmes
- What it means to have a rights-based approach
- Statistics on number of people who increase their legal capability through legal advice
- Impart information to colleagues, get more PLE going in community
- Aim to do PLE with drama

- Some ideas for collaboration

4. Adult learners and legal capability

Responses to “what learning or actions will you take away from this workshop?”

- History on how financial capability came about
- To promote education of rights and responsibility in the community

5. Research and evaluation

Responses to “what learning or actions will you take away from this workshop?”

- Convinced of need to evaluate effect of different PLE models
- Future research tasks
- Useful data and interesting points to take on

Evaluation - summary

The Legal Empowerment Conference

10 February 2010 at Inmarsat Global, London

1. We received 25 evaluation forms back, about one third of the total audience, or half if it were assumed that most respondents were delegates and not presenters
2. The total percentage of respondents giving 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' (in some questions this is represented alternatively as 'some use', 'useful', 'very useful') scores for 'main room' (everything bar workshops) sessions was 97%.
3. Theatre ADAD was the most popular 'main room' session with 100% 'Good' to 'excellent' scores. In fact the session scored 89.74% of respondents rated the session five out of five, or 'excellent'.
4. The interactive sessions combined (ADAD and OJEN) scored 99.04% 'good' to 'excellent'.
5. Lord Bach's keynote address was the lowest scoring plenary session, with 88.24% 'good' to 'excellent', followed by the panel session which scored 97.87%.
6. Workshop sessions received between 3-7 responses each possibly making the results less representative.
7. Total percentage of 'some use' to 'very useful' scores for workshops was 97.6%.
8. Workshops 1, 3, 4 and 5 in fact all scored 100%, with workshop 2 (Youth Justice) only achieving 88% which brought down the average.
9. Delegate comments confirmed that Theatre ADAD and Sarah McCoubrey's sessions were seen to be of most value.
10. The perceived value of the event, measured by responses to the three Opportunity to Learn, Opportunity to Exchange Ideas, and Opportunity to Reflect on Challenges questions on the evaluation form, appears to have been high.
11. The opportunity to network, and exposure to different experiences, perspectives and approaches were identified as key benefits in attending.