

# 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