

Learning mats

Legal Empowerment Conference

10 February 2010 at Inmarsat Conference Centre, London

(Seven learning mats were collected and the comments captured below in the same mat-by-mat order under each discussion heading. Where no comment was given for a particular section, a dash is inserted to maintain sense of response order)

How can you use more interactive elements in your work?

What are the main issues here?

- Too much emphasis on knowledge
- Far greater importance of skills and knowledge
- We'll tell you what we believe you need to know, rather than starting with the 'client'
- Inadequate, if any, analysis of the law

- Benefits take-up
- Common employee grievance
- Community – housing issues, anti-social behaviour

- Training and support issues
- Replicate?

- Tailored to the audience
- 'Self-referral'
- Fear of 'role plays'

- The 'sponge' learner

- How we can engage / get to communities
- Building trust and confidence with young people
- Need skills + confidence-building as well as information

- Emotional issues
- Organising/admin skills
- Engaging at confidence level as well as technical content
- Judges in schools – how to engage more

What further thinking, research or actions do we think are needed?

- A more systemic approach
- Research into just how much legal content is involved in the issues
- Building relationships with community professionals to determine need on the ground
- One-to-one or one-to-many coaching
- How to create a culture of engaging in justice education?
- What do they need to know?
- Buy-in of professionals – judiciary etc

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- Working out what information is useful and essential
- Training in skills that are needed
- How to evidence that PLE works → An answer! LSC survey now + 18 months later – effect of different interventions e.g. leaflets

What questions do we have?

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- Who is it for?
- Is it based on socio- economic factor, etc?
- Communities and individuals aren't all online
- How can we use digital models – but wisely!
- How to overcome 'shyness' / apathy against role play

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What conclusions can we draw?

- Always come from perspective of person being 'empowered' rather than what judges and lawyers or 'legal professionals' think they might need

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- It's all there – matching + cooperating/collaborating
- Get toolkits online and out to communities
- Best way to keep participants engaged
- DVD role play to demonstrate
- Reduced capacity linked to funding is an issue
- Recognising when need to signpost or get in other professionals

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