



A Case Study – Facilitating a Partnership Meeting

It was one of those sunny days that made the windows dull and air stuffy inside the meeting room.

The projector's quiet hum soon paled into the background as people bustled, minced, stole or burst in depending on their demeanor on that day. They settled themselves noisily round the tables set out for them, having established that there were no pre-set seating rules. The table closest to the presenter table was of course the last to fill up.

One or two were fingering the strange objects on the tables and there were surprised murmurs as they recognised the toys of their childhood such as "Stickle Bricks", "Lego" and "Brio". Others were reading the material in front of them.

The consultant and the client looked at each other, five minutes to go, and only a few more people to attend. They had determined that they would start the meeting on time, regardless of the stragglers.

The final wrap up of the day's session was greeted with a sea of smiles. All attendees had made some friends from the other partner organisations and together they had achieved a huge number of SMART action points that were agreed by all. But most of all they had identified and worked on a range of pitfalls that might have been fatal for the success of the partnership, and opportunities that hadn't been thought of. They had achieved all that without even using the word "risk" even though in the final wrap up it had been suggested, and then agreed, that the list was written up as a Risk Register.

The sun was low in the sky as they tramped out after shaking the consultant's hand and handing over the feedback form.

The feedback was interesting;

"I was surprised at how easy it was to do risk management", said one. Another extolled the virtues of games "Using the toys made us a better team. We didn't have to stop and think about why someone said something, as we were all concentrating on the goals we had to achieve." Liz Taylor Risk Consulting was particularly pleased with the comment "It needed an independent facilitator to get us to do what we did. That way all of the partners were on an equal level." Another wasn't quite so happy, "We achieved a lot in a short space of time, but it would have been better if we had started first thing in the morning and given this all day."

Well you can please some of the people some of the time.....

If you would like to talk to us about facilitating a workshop or providing some help with your partnership risk management process, please call us.

This is a case study of a piece of work we conducted with a Unitary Local Authority of which the workshop described above was one element.