Pathway (Visioning)

The Path (Forest and Pearpoint 1992)

Pathway / Visioning is a method used to facilitate group members to develop a clear step by step guide in defining progression routes to addressing an issue or top

This technique (adapted from the Path (Forest & Pearpoint 1992) will bring people together to build a common vision for a person, family, organisation or community.

The Path requires members to distinguish between the dream and the realistic achievable goal/target. It also explores the here and now – the reality.

The Pathway works on the same principle that once you have established the goal you work your way back to fill in the steps required. Once completed the members should have a clear starting point and the progressive stages clearly outlined which will enable them to reach their goal.

The facilitator needs to ensure that what is inserted in the pathway stages is accurate, meaningful and true.

Large arrow shaped paper, pens

Pathway (Visioning) (cont)

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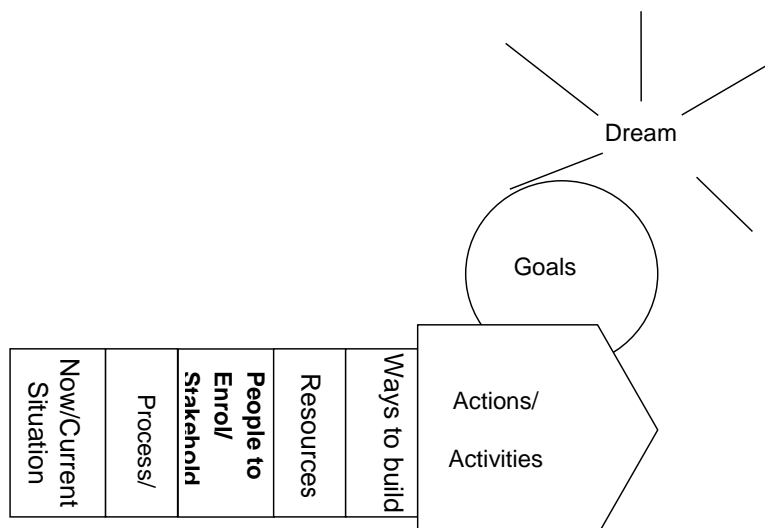
Pin up the prepared arrow on a large sheet/roll of paper as per diagram. Get the group to discuss the scenario/real situation and ask them to agree the "dream". This can be written in words or symbols outside/beyond the goal area. Now the group should be focussed on the target(s)/goal(s) – what is achievable/priority right now. Once agreed, the group should write their target(s)/goals(s) in the circle beyond the arrow.

Before moving onto the process involved in achieving their target(s)/goal(s), bring them back to the "now" section which will enable the group to reflect on the current situation and ask them to fill in the words/symbols which describe their situation and feelings. This will give them the drive/encouragement to reach their target(s)/goal(s).

Workings backwards from their target(s)/goal(s) ask the group to complete all the sections. Each step needs to be reasonably tangible before the next step is carried out.

It is important that in each stage the group discuss the ideas/suggestions and reach agreement.

Once the full group has agreed – the dream, the "now" and the Target(s)/Goal(s, split the group into three groups and give out a flip-chart each with a different heading: "Actions", "Resources", "Ways to Build Strength", "People to Enrol" – leaving out the "order/process"

Once each sub-group has completed their section, build up the arrow and discuss the contents. Once consensus is reached, complete "order/process" section.

If time is limited members could put their ideas/suggestions on sticky post it notes to be placed in the relevant section.

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