

Knowledge Cafés

1–2 hours



Knowledge Cafés encourage productive conversations to help people learn from each other. They can help people to solve problems, break down silos, drive innovation and build a community. The value of the Café is in the conversation itself and the learning that each individual takes away.

Knowledge Cafés

Before the Session:

- Spend time devising a single open-ended question to stimulate conversations
- Invite participants (between 12 – 24 people is ideal)
- Arrange your room with small round tables that can seat 4/5 people.

Options:

An invited speaker can introduce the theme but this should be limited to 15 minutes to allow adequate time for the conversation to take place.

If time is short consider running a 30 minute Espresso Café.

1. Facilitator explains how the café will run, introduces the theme and poses the question.
2. The small groups are invited to have a self-facilitated conversation based upon the question.
3. After 15 minutes groups are invited to swap tables to begin new conversations, meet new people and get different perspectives on the question.
4. After 45 minutes come back together as a full group to share ideas and learning from the conversations that have taken place. Individuals may suggest an actionable insight if appropriate.
5. If the group agrees, ideas from the conversation can be captured and shared after the session but this must not inhibit the conversation.