

NETWORK CAFE

“How can health intelligence better support efforts to improve the population’s health and reduce health inequalities on the island?”

Inaugural All-Ireland Health Intelligence Conference

Kevin P Balanda

AIM OF THIS SESSION

To use the Network Café method to:

- Explore what how we can use health information/health intelligence to better support efforts to improve the population's health and reduce health inequalities
- Engage with other delegates who we may not have met before
- Build working relationships

THE OVER-ARCHING QUESTION

“How can health intelligence better support efforts to improve the population’s health and reduce health inequalities?”

FOUR TABLE QUESTIONS

Question 1: “What information/intelligence do people/organizations need?”

Question 2: “How can we ensure that people/organizations get the information/intelligence they need and get it when they need it?”

Question 3: “How can we ensure that people/organizations have the capacity to use the information/intelligence they need?”

Question 4: “How can we ensure that information/intelligence is actually used effectively for better policy, planning and practice?”

WHAT IS A NETWORK CAFÉ?

- Is basically a “conversation”
- Workplace conversations can be quite formal and quite structured, and often lose the spontaneity and creativity of casual conversation.
- The network café builds on the strengths of having structure while supporting the creativity of more social types of gatherings.
- The network café attempts to reflect the social creative environment of the café (or pub) where:
 - small groups of people engage in conversation
 - some people “float” from table to table cross pollinating ideas.

STEPS IN OUR NETWORK CAFÉ (1)

- Each table is assigned one of the four table questions listed before – they're written on cards on the table.
- Each table has a “ host” who will stay with the table throughout the café.
- There will be three rounds (20 minutes each).
- During each round, guests can engage in the conversation about the table question and can also write – words, doodles, scribbles, drawings, etc – on the “table cloth”.
- During each round the host will also record the salient points.

STEPS IN OUR “NETWORK CAFÉ” (2)

- At end of each round, a bell will be rung.
- Conversation should then stop.
- Everyone (except the host) will then move to another table
 - either one with the same question (to discuss that question further)
 - or a table with a different question.

If you see a table without many people join it rather than one that is quite full.
- At the end of Round 3, we ask some of the “hosts” (one from each table question) to briefly share the most salient message from that table.
- At the end of the café we will gather together the table hosts’ notes and all the “table cloths”, and incorporate them into the café report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TABLE HOSTS

- Welcome people and ask them to quickly introduce themselves if they're not already known to everyone at the table
- Summarize the conversation so far (Not just the things you agree with!)
- Encourage participation and make sure everyone is heard respectfully.
- If people are talking over each other then help make sure people get to finish.
- Support “listening into the middle” for larger or deeper questions and insights
- Engage in the conversation as a participant / steward and not a formal facilitator.
- Avoid providing answers or directing the conversation
- Encourage people to write / draw / doodle / scribble on the “table cloths to summarize ideas and reflect interesting thoughts
- Help people to stop their conversations when the bell rings and to move together.