

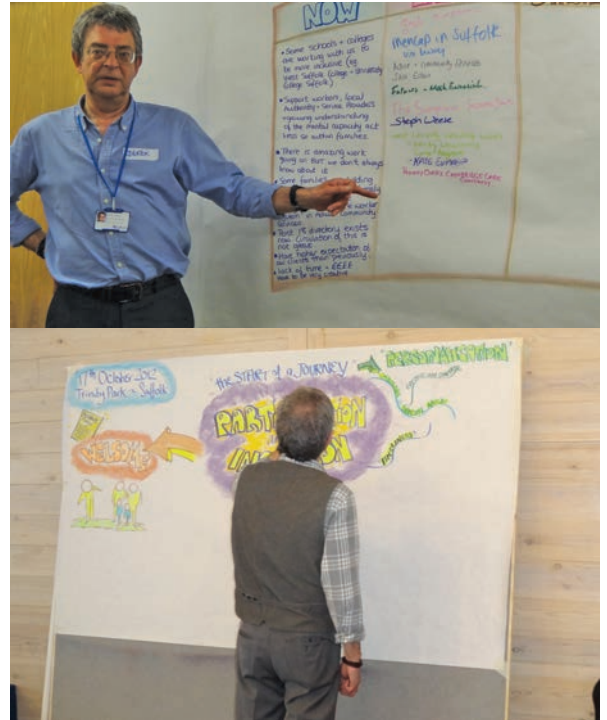
Facilitation: The role of the graphic facilitator

50% of the facilitation work involved in person centred processes outlined in the decision making guide (Web Resource 2.4) is graphic facilitation.

Graphics are not an optional add-on or about being colourful for its own sake – they are key in supporting the group to focus, make meanings and bring to life a picture of what they want to create together.

Although much of the graphic facilitator's time is spent listening and recording what individuals are saying, this does not mean they are silent throughout the process.

From time to time the graphic facilitator should use his or her own questions to help the group create meanings together.



Interaction with the group

John O'Brien, Jack Pearpoint and Lynda Khan (2010) suggest the following range of clarifying questions for the graphic facilitator's use:

Questions to build engagement

- "What colour do you want that to be?"
- "What does that look like?"
- "Is there any detail that I could add that would just make that image come alive for you?"

Questions to generate an image in response to a story or key idea

- "What is at the heart of that for you?"
- "What could capture that in pictures?" / "How do we turn those words into pictures?"
- "How can we show that so that so that you will be able to remember all that it means to you?"

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The process and graphic facilitators need to work in tandem; they are a team and both are responsible for ensuring no steps or prompts are omitted.

Because the graphic facilitator has less direct interaction with the group, they are more able to have an eye on timekeeping and ensure the process is on track to finish at the agreed time.

The process facilitator should not be checking over his or her shoulder to see if the graphic facilitator is keeping up with recording what the group is saying. Although you should expect they will slow the flow of the group dialogue by only allowing one person to speak at a time and by regularly repeating/reflecting what they have heard. Keeping up is the responsibility of the graphic facilitator and it is always OK to ask for something to be repeated if the flow of information becomes too fast.

Further reading / references

Agerbeck, B. *The Graphic Facilitator's Guide*. Loosetooth.com Library (2012)

O'Brien, J. et al *The PATH and MAPS Handbook: Toronto*. Inclusion Press, (2010)

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Wilson, D. and Newton, C. *Circles of Adults: Nottingham*. Inclusive Solutions, (2006)

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