



COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

What is a Community of Practice (CoP)?

A group of people who share an interest in the same real-life problems or topics and who, on that basis, interact regularly online or face to face, to learn together and from each other

Individuals in a CoP are supported to participate and interact, sharing knowledge and building networks to promote knowledge exchange



Who can join a CoP?

Anyone interested in the problem or topic!
The idea of a CoP is that all contributors have equal voice and status.
A CoP could include for example:



- Decide the key focus
- Consider a steering group that may oversee planning
- Who might be interested in being involved in the CoP?
- Use networks to identify different representation and points of view
- Co-create an agenda
- Consider support for each member to contribute (e.g. service users) You may need additional time prior to the CoP meeting to help prepare members
- Have a named contact for the group



- Ensure all have access if virtual
- Ask someone to be a chairperson and run the agenda
- Ask someone to be there to support members to speak
- Create an opportunity for members to meet and form relationships e.g. icebreaker to introduce humour
- Agree your aims, objectives and terms of reference
- Allow time for feedback, reflection and evaluation

How does it work?



- A steering group may be useful to ensure key targets are met
- Consider opportunities for further funding
- Consider what approaches the CoP may use to take work forward, e.g. group members contributing to tasks or activities

