

ACTIVITY 3: FISHBONE ANALYSIS¹

Purpose: To enable those involved in the task to discuss a focused, practical question in creative ways whilst paying attention to key factors that will enable change to take place.

Participants: To be undertaken in small groups, but it could also be addressed by individuals. Combining people with different backgrounds, roles and responsibilities, including staff and students, will lead to a range of perspectives being addressed. Combining people with similar roles and perspectives is equally valid.

The Task

1. On a large sheet of paper or board, draw a basic fishbone, as in the example below. (You can add as many 'bones' as you like).
2. At the top of, or along, each 'bone', write the key areas for consideration in the context of the question.
3. Annotate each of the key areas in any way you think is useful – directly onto the bones', using post-it notes
4. If appropriate, share your Fishbone analysis with the larger group.

Note for the organiser: If you are running a session using this tool, decide on the question that you want to focus on and write this into the 'head' space. You will then need to decide whether the 'bones' should be the same for each group. They don't need to be - it depends on your purpose: for example, finding solutions to specific issues (in which case the 'bones' might be the same for everyone) or working more openly to gain a picture of different perceptions of key areas (with the headings for each 'bone' being made up by the group).



