

TRANSFORMATION E-zine

December 2009

This newsletter contains information on:

- ▶ Our progress to date
- ▶ Upcoming events
- ▶ Testimonials





Editorial

Seasons greetings and welcome to our first Transformation e-zine.

In this edition, find out how we are getting on with The TRANSFORMATION Project. Read about the project launch and workshops undertaken to date. We have scheduled an un-missable series of events for 2010, so don't miss out!

Since the launch we have been busy developing the management tools and our website – why not try out our 'I Have An Idea' forum page and find out what our project partners think about The TRANSFORMATION Project.

We have captured our workshops on film which means that you'll be able to download any missed workshops online. This coupled with the video podcasts, means that we are firmly in the technological age. But don't take my word for it, have a look at the podcasts for yourselves at www.thetransformationproject.co.uk

So far Project Manager Today has published an article covering the Project and we are looking to develop and target more publications as the project continues.

We are also delighted to announce that 'Network Rail' will shortly be joining the project to test the new management tools within their organisation in February 2010.

I hope you enjoy reading the Transformation e-zine and find it useful and interesting. If you have any suggestions about how we can improve anything for you, contact me using the details on the right.

Happy reading!



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Seasons greetings and a prosperous New Year!



Progress

TRANSFORMING theory and to innovative management tools

Transformation Launch & Workshops

The TRANSFORMATION Project was launched on 1st October 2009, providing participants with an understanding of the Project.

The TRANSFORMATION Project has been structured into 3 phases:

- ▶ Phase 1: Introducing the research – 28th and 29th October 2009
- ▶ Phase 2: Unleashing the tools – 10th December 2009
- ▶ Phase 3: Evaluating the tools – 17th February 2010

Phase 1: Introducing the research

Phase 1 introduced the underpinning research that would be developed into management tools. Open forums were used to discuss the ideas. The theory included:

- ▶ Actor Network Theory
- ▶ Receptivity for Change
- ▶ Social Network Analysis



This workshop was paramount as it finished with a 'wish list' from our project partners briefing what they wanted from the management tools.

This left our Knowledge Transfer Executive with an huge challenge to convert the 'wish list' into an 'ideal' management toolset.



Tim Moore
Managing Director
Playgroup

The workshop was “enormously helpful as a lens with which to view some things that have happened within our organisation. It definitely helped with the underlying issues which perhaps we weren't focused on at the time.”



Progress

Phase 2: Unleashing the tools

10th December 2009 was an exciting day for both academics and project partners in finding out how the theory and the 'wish list' was transformed into a practical management toolset.

The workshop was led by Dr Michael Butler and Mike Reid unravelled the tools.

The developed management tools were well received but like anything, they require a few tweaks.

We have taken these suggestions on board and the Knowledge Transfer Executive is busy developing the toolset to suit your needs.



Phase 3: Evaluating the tools

Phase 3 is scheduled to take place on 17th February 2010.

From January to 17th February, the tables will be turned so this time the project partners will introduce the toolset in their organisations and report back with their findings! Warwickshire Police have already started!

Our partners include:





Upcoming events

Alongside the development of the management tools, don't forget to add these seminar dates in your diary. It's a fantastic opportunity for you to network with other organisations and knowledge share! We're also doing Project Management Maturity Assessments and Mini Exchanges.

Seminar series for 2010

- ▶ Seminar 1
Date : 24th March 2010
Time : 3pm – 6pm
Venue : Aston Business School
Theme : Transformation – The What, the Good and the How
- ▶ Seminar 2
Date : 17th June 2010
Time : 3pm – 6pm
Venue : Aston Business School
- ▶ Seminar 3
Date : 23rd September 2010
Time : 3pm – 6pm
Venue : Aston Business School

- ▶ Seminar 4
Date : 13th October 2010
Time : 3pm – 6pm
Venue : Aston Business School



Benefits to your organisation

- ▶ The developed management toolset will be made available as a hard-copy work book as well as being downloadable from the website at the end of the project.
- ▶ A step-by-step guide will be made available to compliment toolset for the project partners.
- ▶ Project partners will be mentioned in any new theoretic contributions in peer-review journal papers and practitioner publications.
- ▶ Transforming organisation project performance.
- ▶ Transferable skills and knowledge sharing across organisations.
- ▶ We have contacts with over 450 collaborators in 170 organisations enabling you to bounce ideas with like minded practitioners.



Testimonials

Helen Aston, Catalyst Education

“ I welcomed seeing how quickly you could take what I thought were understandable areas which you were applying, and dug deeper into some of the issues quite quickly. So that's quite positive for me and I think the application therefore of things like social networks into this would be welcomed and I do think that it builds quite sensibly on what we've done so far!

Chris Alexander, ANPR Manager, Warwickshire Police

“We thought the TRANSFORMATION project would be full of academic theory, that probably would have achieved very little other than further clouding of the actual issue. In reality the process actually allowed us to understand what the problem was. We knew there was a problem but I think that we now have a much greater understanding of what the problem is. That is a massive step towards solving the problem and quite honestly, I doubt that we would have achieved that if we had been left to our own devices.”



Karen Caine, Research Associate, Echo

“We have got to do a presentation to a senior manager next week and this has given us several ideas that we need to include in our plan, so this has come at just the right moment for us. Thinking about things as well as people (Actor-Network Theory session), just doing that has made us think of ways which we need to improve our communication and look at why it's not working at the moment.”