TRANSCRIPT: SOCIAL RESPONSE CYCLE RESOURCE

SECTION THREE WHAT THE NEXT STEP COULD LOOK LIKE

The “social entrepreneur” who came up with the plan located a venue and sourced needles and wool from a charity shop for £15. The entrepreneur also approached a knitting facilitator with experience of mental health work, who was interested in running the group. The service manager agreed to offer the knitting facilitator ongoing supervision.

Costs were calculated at £3000 for a weekly term time group for 8 to 10 people for a year. The facilitator would be paid £50 per 2-hour session. £1000 was secured from a local funder for a 4 month pilot – for 12 sessions. This paid for the facilitator’s fees and materials, management/training time and venue hire.  A short-term trial was chosen in order to minimise risks, given that this initiative was based on observation rather than a previously evaluated intervention. A simple system of evaluation was devised, and the facilitator was trained in how to make referrals to the counselling service if required, as the group was open to counselling and non-counselling clients. As a result of the training, the facilitator felt confident about the ethical frame within which the group functioned. The evaluation was conducted, and the numbers were disappointingly low. The risk did not seem to have paid off but only a small amount of money had been involved. And the entrepreneur leading on this, made the case to the manager for allowing another 4 months for the knitting culture to become embedded into the organisation. Another £1000 funding bid was successful, and the entrepreneur’s nerve paid off. The group began to thrive, and a major funder allocated continuation funding for the group. Risk of failure is inevitable with Social Response Cycle projects. But there is no creativity without risk. By keeping the risk small, there is little waste.