Hot Topic Tips

Each Peer Group will be responsible for organising a Hot Topic session at one of the group modules. Hot Topics are one-hour learning events, facilitated by group members, for group members. Each group will be allocated a theme - it is then up to you to choose a title and make it happen!

There are many ways you can approach your Hot Topic. The more imaginative and participative the approach, the greater the likely impact and retention of new ideas.

As ever, it helps to be clear about what you want your Hot Topic to achieve, e.g. sharing different ideas, increasing participants’ self-awareness, giving people tools to take away etc. - this will help to inform the approach you take.

Think about what resources you have. How can you make best use of them to achieve your desired result? It’s also useful to think of this as an opportunity to contact people you wouldn’t otherwise dare to, to invite as guests or participants.

Some of the best Hot Topic learning events we’ve seen were the simplest to put together. You do not need to do exhaustive research or create a detailed presentation. Think of yourselves as facilitators rather than presenters. Questions are more stimulating than answers.

Focus on one theme or question, and approach it in a couple of different ways. For example a short presentation by a speaker (external or internal) or a brief presentation by a group member, followed by a group exercise and/or structured discussion.

Previous examples include ‘Question Time’ style debate, film of compiled interviews, exploring case studies, series of role-plays, self-assessment questionnaires, ‘expert’ speakers, café discussions etc.

The only way you can get this ‘wrong’ is by turning it into a problem to be solved rather than an opportunity to be gained from!

Hot Topic FAQs

How long do we have for our Hot Topic?

Each Peer Group will have one hour for their Hot Topic – 11.45-12.45. If you need longer (max extra 15 minutes) please contact the Thresholds team.
**My speaker can’t make the allotted time - is there any flexibility?**

The rest of the day has been designed around the Hot Topic time slot. If a speaker you have approached can’t make the timings, we suggest you approach someone else instead.

**What equipment and materials are available?**

There will be a projector, screen, speakers, flipchart & pens available. Facilitators will usually have a laptop with them, however it’s always better if possible to bring your own equipment on which you have already tested any content you wish to present. If possible try to use ‘offline’ content as venues don’t always have reliable wi-fi – or contact the venue directly with any queries.

**Is there a budget?**

Thresholds do not have a budget for Hot Topics, and we find that speakers rarely if ever want their expenses reimbursed. Having said that, if you have found a fantastic external speaker and having their expenses paid is a deal-breaker, please contact the Thresholds team.

**How do we ensure that we don’t duplicate what the facilitator will be covering in the rest of the module?**

We have carefully chosen the Hot Topic themes to complement the other topics we will cover in the module. If in doubt, please refer to the Module Agenda on your personal Crossing Thresholds page.

**Do you need to know what we have planned for the Hot Topic?**

Yes please! Your allocated Peer Group contact person needs to write a brief outline of your Hot Topic in the ‘Peer Group’ section of their personal Crossing Thresholds page.

**Can Thresholds help?**

The Thresholds team are there if you have any general enquiries but we really encourage Peer Groups to work together on the Hot Topics. It’s such a great opportunity to use your initiative and creativity, and to reach out and use your networks.