

Workshops C and G (combined) Notes

Board Governance

**Facilitators: Kathy Baker (Social Firms UK), Mike Aiken (Open University),
Colin Harrison (Electroville)**

There was a little confusion to start with over the combined workshop of C and G (done due to low numbers signed up to each), but this soon got sorted out.

There were some good introductions. Mike Aiken gave an outline of the governance research programme and the handout given highlighted the main issues.

Recruiting suitable board members needs to be related to the required expertise. Commercial expertise/experience tends to be lacking generally in this sector. The relationship between board members & management can be challenging and supportive. Boards tend to be risk averse in the social sector. There was discussion around control versus trust.

Colin Harrison gave an outline of Electroville and its trials and successes. The facilitator teased out the main issues and generated participation amongst delegates. Discussion was had around potential sources of where to find the right board members, ranging from MBA students to golf courses. Need to look at required skills, relationship between board and management, assessment and appraisal of board members. Tensions between being a charity at the same time as a commercial entity (Social Firm) were also highlighted.