



WESTERN DOWNS FUTURES

WORKING GROUP FORUM

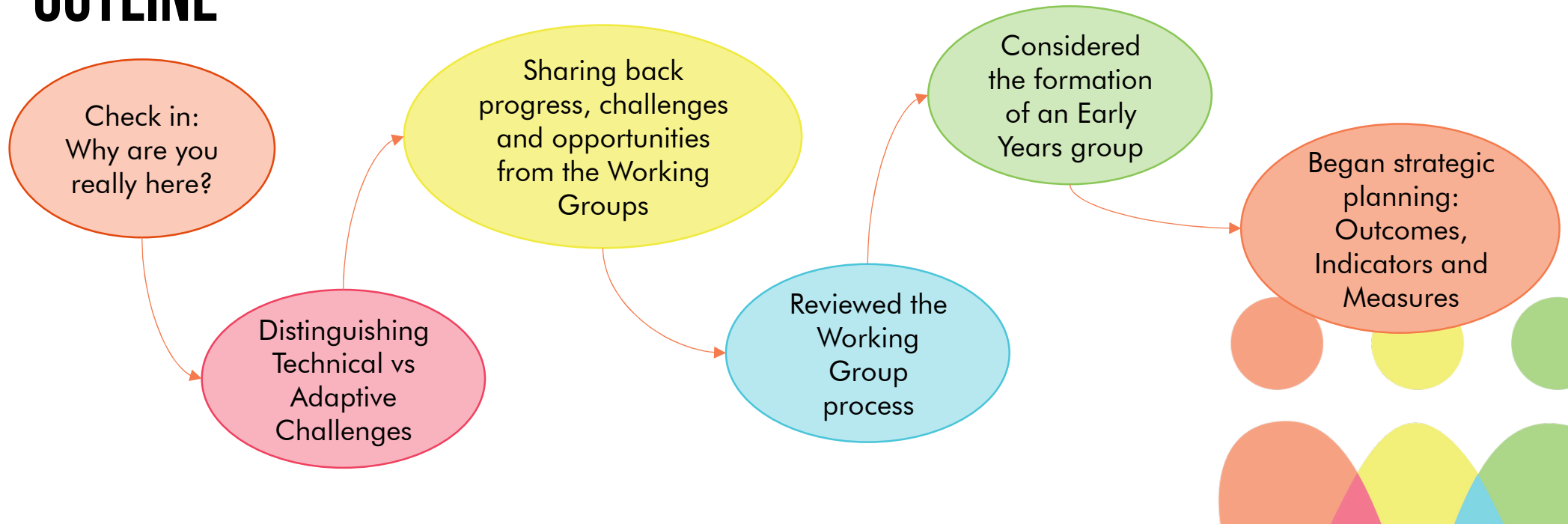
SUMMARY PACK | 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

OBJECTIVES

On the 20th September 2024, the Western Downs Futures' Working Group Forum at the Dalby Events Centre brought together 58 partners. Most of the partners are involved in a Working Group, others came to learn how they can be involved in working groups, and even more came to observe how we collaborate in our region. The forum aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Bring the network together to feedback information, updates and regroup.
- Each Priority Working Group presented on their progress, challenges, and opportunities.
- Commence setting the direction of our priority areas to feed into the *shared common agenda* to inform our 10-year strategic plan for Western Downs Futures.

OUTLINE



OBJECTIVES

CHECK IN

GROUP UPDATES

CHILDCARE

STRATEGIC PLANNING

WHY ARE YOU REALLY HERE?

OBJECTIVES

In the opening check in activity, we invited everyone to move through the room, find someone they have not met before, and ask the question, "Why are you really really here?". The pairs expressed a passion for the Western Downs region, and the activity built a shared sense of solidarity between participants.

Check in:
Why are you
really here?

CHECK IN

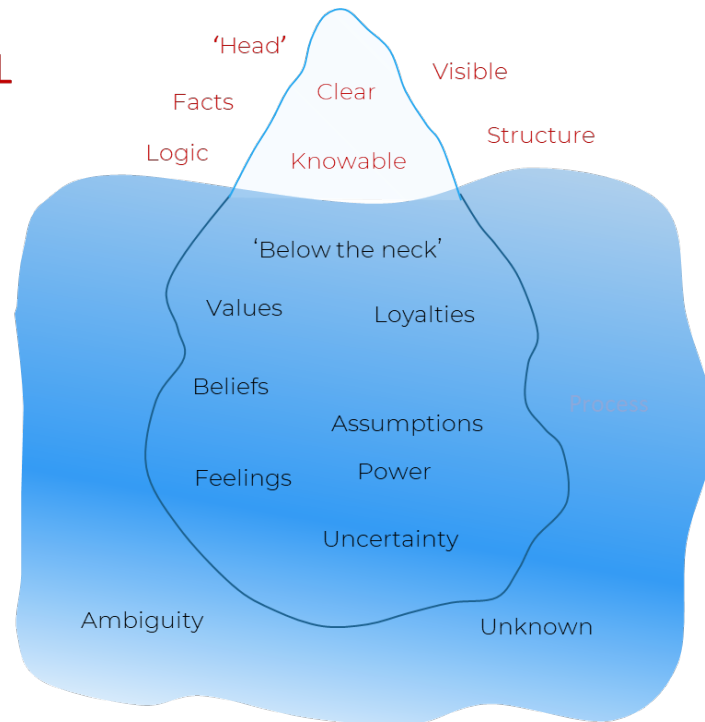
GROUP UPDATES

CHILDCARE

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Distinguishing Technical vs Adaptive Challenges

TECHNICAL



TECHNICAL VS ADAPTIVE CHALLENGES

Now that the whole group had broken the ice, we conducted a second check in activity. We invited the group to line up in order of height (tallest to shortest), and quickly saw our partners move into the correct height order. The members shared that this was simple to do, and everyone understood the challenge that was set, and could easily see the solution. **Problems which are visible and structured are Technical.**

We then invited the group to line up in order of how many times you had failed in the last month. We saw many different approaches and a straight line was not able to be formed. The members shared that this task was difficult to do as everyone had different beliefs about "failure" and groups formed around their different definition of the problem. **Challenges which are ambiguous and require discussion with other stakeholders are Adaptive.**

Distinguishing the difference between Technical and Adaptive challenges was embedded as a learning throughout the Forum.

ADAPTIVE



OBJECTIVES

Sharing back progress, challenges and opportunities from the Working Groups

Reviewed the Working Group process

WORKING GROUP PROCESS

Each Working Group followed the format to share back their progress, highlighting challenges and opportunities for their respective group.

The slideshow presentations are provided as an attachment to this summary pack.

CHECK IN

After the presentations, the working groups were invited to discuss the working group process and how they are experiencing the collaboration so far. **This is a summary of key themes:**

GROUP UPDATES

Collaboration is our strength

Finding local solutions to national problems

More people working together broadens our perspectives

CHILDCARE

Avoiding duplication

Focus on realistic steps, and making progress over perfection

Balancing advocacy vs action

Inclusion of youth?

Managing Expectations

Ensuring the right people are involved

STRATEGIC PLANNING



COMMON CHALLENGE... CHILDCARE

Childcare emerged as a common challenge for 3 out of 5 of the Working Groups, which led to the proposal of a standalone group to work on Childcare. After some clarification, a few options were presented:

Decision
Making on
Childcare
Working Group

OBJECTIVES

1. Stand up a Childcare Working Group.
2. Stand up a sub-group on Childcare in the Education Working Group.
3. Keep Childcare as a priority action for each Working Group.

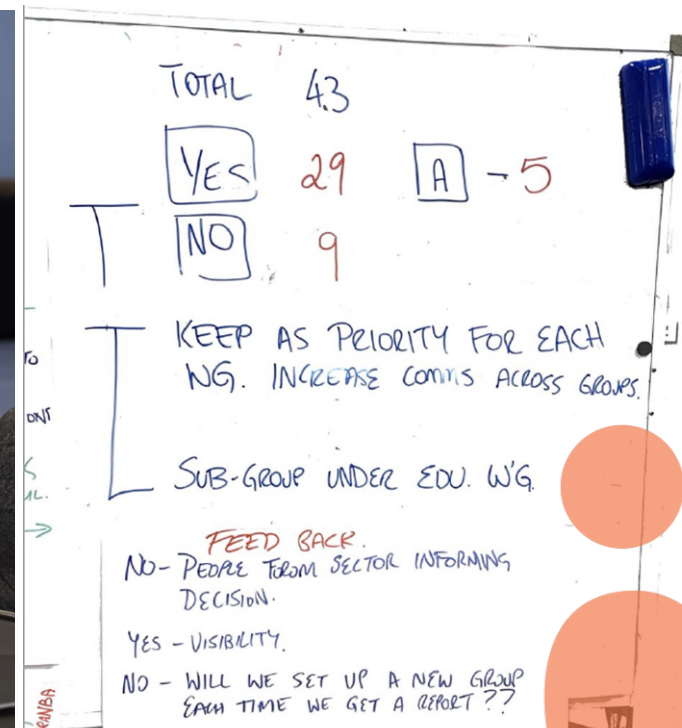
CHECK IN

We attempted in the Forum to take the decision to form a Childcare Working Group to a vote through our decision-making process, however consensus was not reached in this meeting, and we agreed to consult with representatives from the Childcare Sector to take the decision forward.

GROUP UPDATES

CHILDCARE

STRATEGIC PLANNING



SETTING THE DIRECTION

An objective of the Working Group Forum was to commence setting the direction of our priority areas to feed into the *shared common agenda* to inform our 10-year strategic plan for Western Downs Futures.

As the final part of the day, Working Groups were tasked with identifying Outcomes, Indicators, and Measures that would be foundational for continued collaboration. These will be refined for ongoing work and presented to the Interim Steering Committee to incorporate in the 10 Year Strategic Plan for Western Downs Futures.

Began strategic planning:
Outcomes,
Indicators and
Measures

OBJECTIVES

CHECK IN

GROUP UPDATES

CHILDCARE



VISION

Outcome (why?)

Change in an individual or a group of people's lives (impact)

Indicator

Indication that the change is happening or has happened

Measure

Tangible measure either quantitative or qualitative

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In closing, participants were invited to share their key takeaways from the day through a Menti survey. The answers have been shared as an attachment.



NEXT STEPS

Interim Steering Committee meeting debrief on Monday 30 September 2024

Working Groups to refine process for sharing across Working Groups

Working Groups to continue progressing the Outcomes/Indicators/Measures

Education Working Group to follow up with Melissa Kidd and other stakeholders for Childcare

Health Sustainability Futures Group and Health Working Group to consider coordinating or amalgamating

CURRENT STATE OF OUR GOVERNANCE

