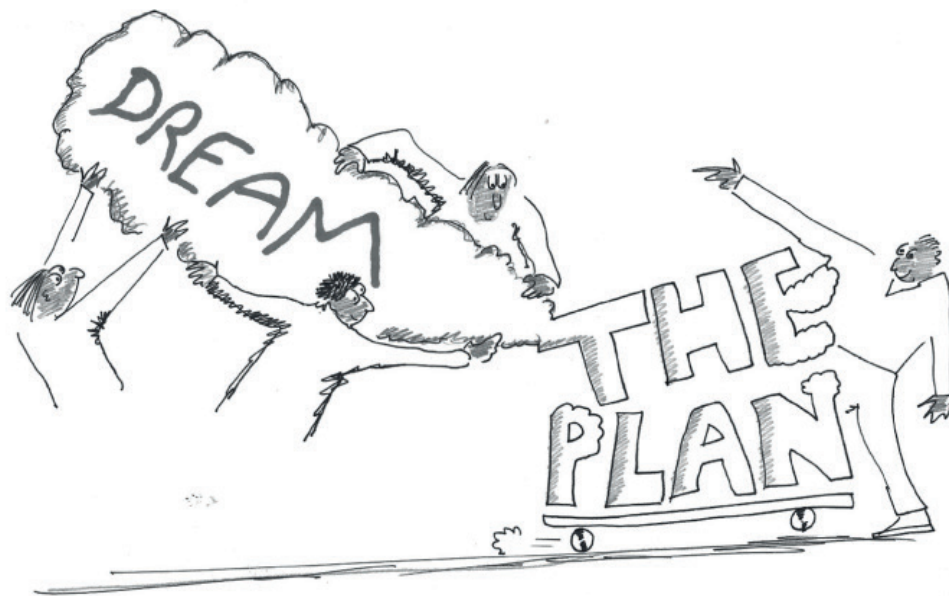




Engaging the Community:

# Building on what we have



mosaic  
creative

[www.mosaiccreative.co.uk](http://www.mosaiccreative.co.uk)

Written and illustrated by  
Bill Crooks and Jackie Mouradian

# Building on what we have

## Purpose

This activity helps a church plan with its community around an aspect of community life that's working well, and seeks to build on making it better. The value of this approach is that it encourages a positive and appreciative approach to things going on in the community. It also brings positive energy and motivation to an idea or initiative.

## There are 5 stages to this approach

### Stage 1: Decide what you want to focus on

Decide what area of church or community life you want to focus on. For example, you might want to look at youth work or support to the elderly. The key thing here is not to choose something too broad, like health or poverty.



### Stage 2: Discover what is good about the way things are done at the moment

Make a list of all the things that are really positive about the area you have decided to look at. You could use the following questions:

What things give life and energy to the youth work?

What's working well at the moment?

What have been the significant achievements so far?

What are people proud of?



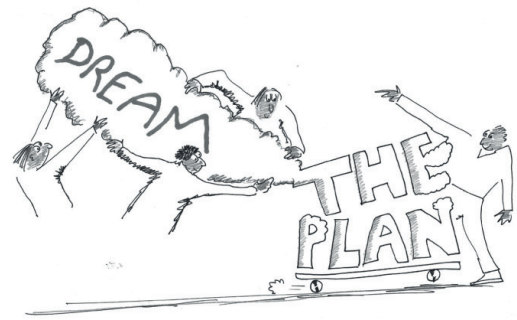
### Stage 3: Dream about the ideal

Encourage the group to dream about how youth work could be even better, building on what they already have. This can be done in the form of pictures or small group brainstorms with each group sharing their ideas on cards which are then clustered into themes. Once you have identified themes, try to create some statements that summarise the dream that everyone can agree to.



### Stage 4: Design the way forward

At this point we bring together all the good aspects that have been discovered in stage 2 and combine them with the dream in stage 3. This should be practical and realistic and you might want to refer to the Hot Air Balloon exercise in Module 6 of 'Stories on the Street' as a way of bringing these ideas to life in a plan.



### Stage 5: Deliver what we want to do

This stage is about exploring how we are going to make this plan work practically. This looks at who is going to take responsibility for what we want to do, what needs to be in place to support the project, and also how we are going to organise ourselves to run the project smoothly.



### Summary

