

STAGE 2 OF 7

Shape a useful idea

This stage is about turning what you heard into one clear idea. You also have to be honest about the parts you are still guessing at.

This worksheet: A one-page project plan covering the need, who it is for, what you would do and what good it would do, plus the things to check.

Start here if you know what the need is and want to work out what to actually do.

THE PROJECT PLAN

Fill in all four boxes. If one of them is hard to fill in, that part of the idea probably needs more work.

1. The need

2. Who it is for

3. The activity — what would actually happen

4. What good it would do

EXAMPLE — DO NOT KEEP

Need: the bins are full every weekend. People: everyone living in one block. Activity: four of us run a collection table on Saturday morning for two hours. Benefit: the bags get taken away instead of sitting on the floor.

WHAT STILL NEEDS CHECKING?

An assumption is something you think is true but have not checked. Write down the ones that would really hurt if you got them wrong.

We are assuming that...	How we could check it	Who to ask

YOUR IDEA, AND THE BIG QUESTION

Write the idea in one sentence that someone else could repeat back to you

The question to look into next — which assumption would change your idea most if it turned out to be wrong?

YOU HAVE FINISHED THIS WHEN...

You have written down a clear idea you could try out, and you know the biggest question you still have to answer.

Next: Show the plan to someone from the community you want to help.