NHS
Improving Quality

LEARNING HANDBOOK
Guidance and tools to support systematic learning before, during and after project activity in health and care

LEARNING

Closing circle

A 'closing circle' is a method of concluding a learning activity where a large number of people were split into smaller groups. It brings everyone back together to recap what has been shared.

Tool	Time	Resources	Physicality	Interactivity
Closing circle	★★☆☆☆	★☆☆☆☆	★☆☆☆☆	★★★★★

When?

A 'closing circle' can be completed after a number of learning activities including Knowledge Cafés, Speed Geeking and Spectrograms.

Who?

All participants of the learning activity, should be involved. A facilitator is also required to introduce the task and assist participants.

How?

The overall time required for the session is between 15 to 45 minutes dependent upon engagement and numbers of participants.

As learning activities are usually completed face-to-face, the idea is to remove tables and pull all chairs into a large circle for everyone taking part to sit together. If the session is being held virtually in break out rooms, you should bring everyone together to complete the closing circle.

A facilitator will then informally recap on the learning activity that has taken place. If specific questions were asked as part of the activity, everyone is reminded of this. The opportunity is then given as a larger group to discuss key points and insights that emerged from the smaller group discussions. This can be done in a very informal manner, in which conversation can come from anyone and develop naturally with individuals taking their own notes as they see fit.

Alternatively, it can be done in a more formal and structured way where each person is allocated time to speak and notes are taken by a nominated individual to be typed up and shared thereafter.

Things you need:

- A space large enough for the entire group to sit together
- Facilitator
- Note-taker if required

Further reading:
- Responsive Classroom – Closing circle
- Gurteen Knowledge Community – Knowledge café circle