

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE (ECGE4006P/C)

Video and Reflection

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Video link:

https://uowtsd.sharepoint.com/teams/Group3Monkton_GRP/Shared%20Documents/General/Recordings/Meeting%20in%20General-20230424_195410-Meeting%20Recording.mp4?web=1

Reference List

NEA. 2022. National Energy Action. NEA Action for Warm Homes. nea.org (Accessed- 20/04/23).

[Over half of parents may resort to washing children's school uniforms by hand, amid cost-of-living crisis - National Energy Action \(NEA\)](#)

Presentation (Individual Slides)

The Helping Hub: Why will it work?

- Nearly 40% of low-income households with a child in education could send their children to school in non-uniform because they may not be able to afford the costs of washing dirty items in future. Nearly four in ten low-income households' resort to using a friend's/family members washing machine (NEA, 2022)
- The cost-of-living crisis has left many individuals unable to access certain household appliances. The Helping Hub will allow families on low income or are financially struggling to access fresh produce, clothing and laundry services.



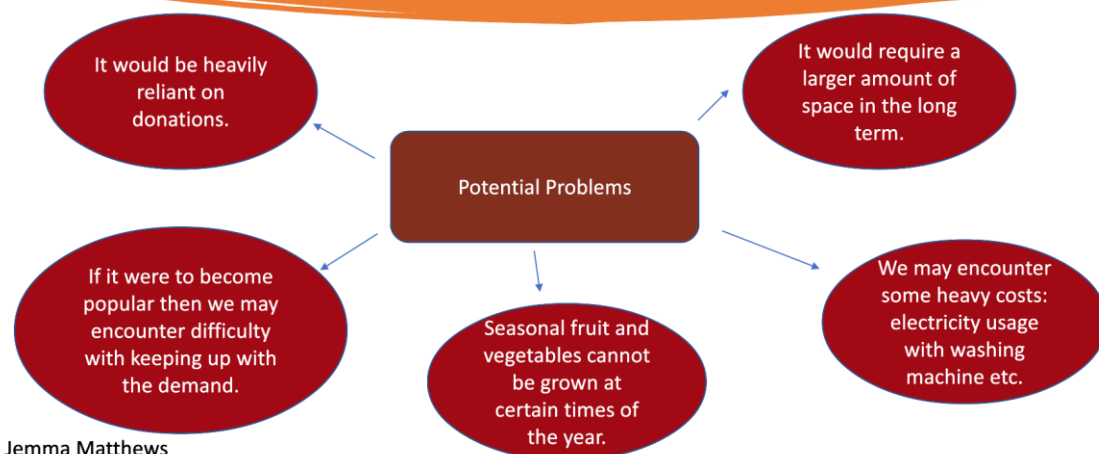
Jemma Matthews

The Positives of the Helping Hub



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Potential Problems of the Helping Hub



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How can the Helping Hub be achieved?

There is a lot of room for expansion with this idea, but to begin with it would be better to keep things simple. We could start with a smaller stall distributing the fresh produce that the pupils will have grown.

This would be an ideal way of testing our idea on a smaller scale. From this we would be able to gather feedback and ideas to improve on in the future.

After collecting feedback, and providing there is user engagement in the project, we can then look at expanding. We can begin to offer more services such as laundry as well as taking on clothing and other donations.

If this becomes a successful enterprise, this could be adopted by other schools and even added to the curriculum.

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Reflection

My initial feelings when we were introduced to this unit was that of nerves and uncertainty. Although I have previously worked in groups academically, I was worried about how the group dynamic would be and if everybody had a similar work ethic. I also was determined to not let my quiet nature impede my assignment in any way and wanted to try and voice my opinions. I was also concerned as to how to manage my time efficiently as well as everybody else's. I was placed in a group with Maria, Karen and Kirstin, who I hadn't had many encounters with through our lectures. I was fully aware of people having busy schedules with some busier than mine as I do not have children or other dependents, apart from my cat who was very supportive through the whole process.

After the end of our lectures, we met very promptly via teams and discussed some ideas we had and also how we were feeling about the unit. This helped my anxiety as I came to realise the other members of my group were feeling very similar to me. We decided to have some time to revise the units and meet up the following week to decide our topic and idea. I also to the liberty of creating a group chat on WhatsApp, so we would have a more convenient mode of contact should we have any questions or ideas to put forward. All of my group initially were not forthcoming with their preferences in regards to topics, which I did find difficult for a brief time as I myself am quite indecisive and work better when given instruction. During the first week, I took the time to restudy the units and also make a start on my first blog from Unit 1. I wanted to complete the majority on unit 1 before beginning our presentation, as I thought it might offer more insight and I could then solely focus on the task.

When we met for the second time, we discussed which "wicked problem" we would like to focus on. I initially put forward racism. This was a topic I felt very strongly about and was also something I focused on in Unit 1 so I had already conducted research. Initially everyone was on board and we left the meeting, from which we were to research and look through the units and brainstorm some ideas for solutions. We agreed to meet in the second week on the Easter holidays. I used the first week of Easter holidays to complete the remainder of my blogs, which I am glad I did in hindsight as I could focus on Unit 2.

Prior to our next meeting, I was ready to brainstorm some of the ideas I had for racism and possible solutions. However, in our WhatsApp group, Kirstin messaged and mentioned that she had an idea which we could use in order to alleviate poverty. Initially I was slightly disheartened due to the research and time I had wasted but when I heard Kirstin's idea these feelings soon disappeared. From this initial idea of growing produce and offering it to those who need it, we brainstormed and found that many other aspects could be added to this idea such as clothing and using the produce in school meals. Everybody had something to contribute which I was grateful for, and this was our most productive meeting thus far. Everybody was also enquiring as to how we would film the video and create the presentation. I suggested that we each work on our slides separately and I volunteered to then organise and copy the slides into one PowerPoint and then I could share this through teams which we could record. Everyone seemed okay with this idea and quite grateful that I was handling the more technical side of the operation.

With an idea and problem in mind, I set to work on creating my slides. I did have to confer with our group chat however, as we did forget to decide who was presenting each part. After this was decided, I began my slides where I was covering the positives and negatives of our idea and how it could be expanded. I thought this was the more difficult part of the presentation, as a lot of it required hypothetical thinking. I also found it extremely difficult to reference within this assessment as it was mostly coming from our collective idea. In hindsight I would definitely see if there were similar enterprises and try and incorporate some references.

We then had another meeting where we finalised a time frame for completing our slides and recording. A few days afterwards, we were discussing our slides via WhatsApp and I mentioned that I could begin joining the slides together. Both Maria and Kirstin sent their work over which I began to place into our final presentation. I was surprised as how time consuming this was, due to everyone having different themes and clip art. I wanted to make sure that it looked professional and flowed well. We then decided that we would meet via Teams the following week and record our video.

We were unaware that Karen hadn't read the messages within WhatsApp so we had to contact directly to explain what was going on. She was happy to meet and record on our chosen date. When this chosen date arrived, we all met on Teams in the evening. I showed everyone our slideshow so far which everyone seemed to be pleased with. I then had to add Karen's slides onto the presentation during this meeting, due to her not receiving the messages a few days earlier. I was able to do this much quicker than before as I had more of an idea as to what I was doing, as well as the added pressure of everyone waiting for me. From that, we had a practise of our presentation which went well. Everyone within my group was very supportive of one another, and respected one another's time. We

then filmed out video, which we were all quite nervous about. I believe the video went well and that everyone was on the same page. We all expressed immense glee when I finished recording, due to our first year being over, and that we created something we were proud of.

To conclude, despite my initial reservations with the group task, I was immensely happy and grateful for the people in my group. Each member was on task and pulled their weight and they were all very supportive. The time we took to talk about things outside of our degrees also helped us get to know one another and become more familiar, which I believe added to our finished product. I would happily work with this amazing group of women again.