

CURRENT HE FM NETWORK MODEL (FROM 2009)

After the last review, the Network format as well as the membership fees for the Network year have developed as follows. Since the Network concept has always been to be open and participative, changes have at all stages involved consultation with the membership.

On the basis of the discussions within the wider Network, the Steering Group, with CFMD colleagues, and with representatives from Sheffield Business School, the following format has been agreed:

- Membership remains all-inclusive, i.e. the annual fee covers the whole workshop and research programme.
- We hold 5 events per year: 4 themed whole-day workshops + 1 annual conference that brings together all of CFMD's public sector Networks. Members need to contribute actively to the workshops.
- Member institutions have 3 delegate places per workshop, or 15 throughout the year.
- Admission is to open to public sector members only (universities/colleges).
- Fees remain stable, as does the two-tier structure (larger institutions £2750 per year, smaller institutions £1950)¹.
- Workshops are open to members and visitors. Non-member institutions can send visiting delegates to one workshop per year. The fee per workshop is £390 for the first delegate and £250 for each further delegate from the same institution. Visitors from ex-member institutions fall into the same category as non-members. (NB. 'Taster sessions' will still be available at a special reduced fee of £190, which will be deducted from the annual fee, if the organisation subsequently joins the Network in the same programme year.)
- Members continue to take turns in hosting the Network events (charge for catering only, not for rooms & AV). Institutions are expected to host an event every few years (we are attempting to cover the whole membership). Hosting institutions are invited to make it 'their day' and share examples of good practice, challenges and problems, new projects, innovative approaches to service etc. – generally work in progress. Workshop slots are made available for this purpose. Examples can include partnerships with external agencies and providers.
- Workshops continue to have broad themes, with Open Space Conferencing sessions to be followed up as short reports or case studies. This can happen over a longer period of time, e.g. in preparation for the end-of-year review.
- There will be more emphasis on sharing of good practice. A mailing list has been set up via JISCMAIL to enable the membership group to stay in contact between events.
- Membership includes access to all event handouts and publications.
- Membership includes access to a members-only website. The website is to be upgraded early in the next Forum year, so that uploading materials and hence members' access becomes faster and easier, with more user-friendly navigation.
- Network membership includes one research project per year. Any further research will have to be proposed and funded separately, through an additional fee or external funding or both.

¹ The banding is currently set for an income boundary of £60,000,000 per institution; i.e. institutions with a total income below this are classified as 'small'. Most HE colleges fall into this category. The income boundary continues to be reviewed year on year.