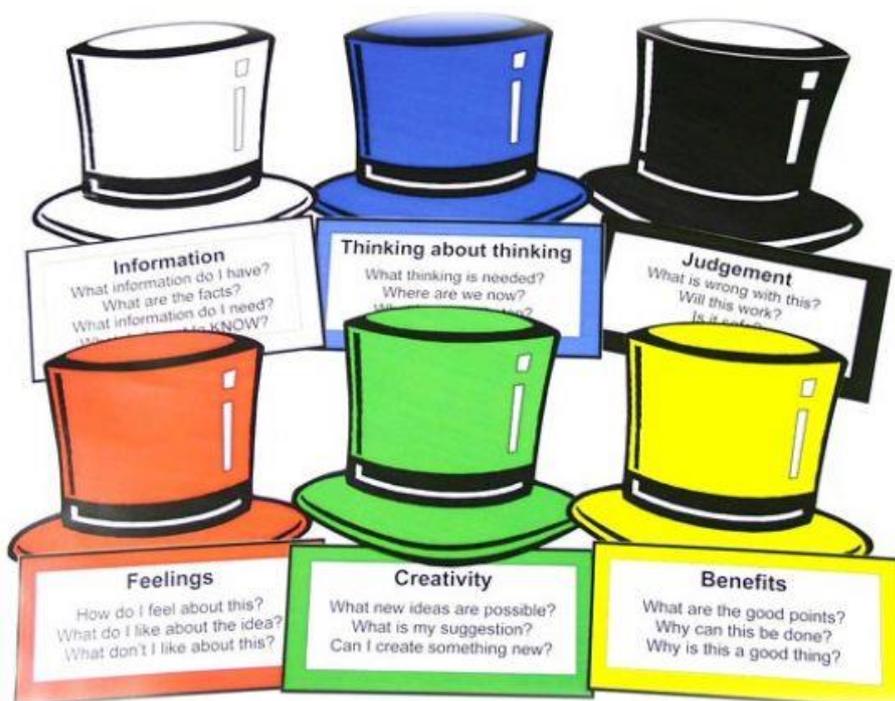


Extract from LOCSU Leadership course 2017: Habiba Bham's 'Leading Teams' blog.



I enjoyed reading through De Bono's six thinking hats technique. I think it holds a valid place within the Optometric community as we so often are caught up spending time during our LOC meetings unconstructively. This is no-one's fault as it usually happens as we start discussing the agenda and we end up spending a lot of time on one topic and then racing through other areas when we are short of time towards the end.

The six hats principle could be used as a template so we can collect all our ideas and thoughts coherently and in full whilst being efficient with our time management. Sometimes we as an LOC end up discussing a topic at length and still do not manage to cover all the possibilities or come to a conclusion because of the disordered nature of the discussion. For example, we recently discussed donations for a specific charity from the LOC on behalf of the contractors in the area. If we apply the six thinking hats technique to this discussion, we could quickly collect the ideas of the group.

- Blue- do we want to support this charity? If yes how much do we want to donate?
- White - how much can the LOC afford to give? How much would the contractors be happy to support giving?
- Yellow - It is a positive contribution to the local area/community,
- Black - what if some contractors do not want to support the charity? Should we still be supporting the charity without a unanimous decision?
- Red - Feels like the right thing to do, helping others who are less fortunate than ourselves
- Green - propose the idea to the contractors at the AGM, hold a vote and upon~ 90% agreed vote - go ahead with the donation?

Now, in theory we covered the majority of these ideas during the discussion but it felt like we were going round in circles and took a lot longer than we would have liked. By using the six thinking hats, I can appreciate the value of training yourself individually as well as in groups to think in different ways. Lateral thinking needs to be adopted within the LOC if we want to come up with effective solutions when dealing with such a vast and complicated organisation that the NHS is.

References:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjSjZOjNIJg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHiwpz7r4wY>

Watson G, Reissner S, (2014) *Developing skills for Business Leadership* CIPD, London, pp. 427-455

<http://www.teachingcave.com/displays/ks2-2/six-thinking-hats/>