Decision Conferencing helps Healthy Buxton make major decision

Client background
Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust and the Buxton Commissioning Group (the three Buxton GP practices) are working together with other organisations in Buxton and the surrounding area looking at how to improve health services for the local population. The goal of the Healthy Buxton Project is to provide the people of Buxton with services and facilities that meet the needs of the local population in the 21st century.

Client challenge
The selection of the preferred option for development in Buxton was arguably one of the most important parts of the whole project. The potential for disagreement between stakeholders in the project was great, as was the potential for challenges to the decision if it was viewed as ill-conceived. Making the wrong choice at this point could also result in future costs being higher than they need to be or future services not being as good as they could be: something everyone wished to avoid.

Under the joint leadership of Simeon Jones, Head of PCT provider services Commissioning and Tracy Allan, Director of Provisioning, a team made up of a cross-section of healthcare professionals, including the three commissioning GP’s, and public representatives was brought together to consider the options available.

The Healthy Buxton project team wanted to arrive at a decision that would meet with public support and represent the best health for the people of Buxton.

How Catalyze helped
The first step in the process was for the team to agree the criteria by which they would value each of the development options. To do this a facilitated workshop was held with the stakeholders where various perspectives and healthcare needs were discussed. During the workshop a number of themes were explored in the context of the overall strategy for healthcare in Derbyshire, looking at health inequality, physical attributes, social responsibility, quality of service and service continuity that led to a set of agreed criteria.

Using the agreed criteria a model was constructed using HiView and this served as the focus for a series of workshops where the stakeholders considered how each of the options
At Catalyze we help organisations to achieve their objectives, by translating strategic intent into deliverable operating plans and optimised business investment portfolios. We do this by applying our expertise in strategy, with proven tools and methodologies that enable informed decision-making and establish clear organisational priorities.

Catalyze was founded in 2001 in conjunction with the London School of Economics and Political Science, and we work with major public and private sector clients on a global basis. Our processes and tools have been independently reviewed and validated by the UK Treasury and the National Audit Office.

“...The structured methodology and excellent facilitation provided by Catalyze was invaluable in steering a diverse group of stakeholders through a complex option appraisal process.”

Tracy Allen, Managing Director, Derbyshire Community Health Services.