Skills of a ‘Change Agent’

Introduction
Change Agents UK have always been ahead of the curve. They identified the need to empower graduates with the skills needed for ‘change agency’ as a way of improving their employability, and nearly 20 years ago, established their charity to support this aim and have been creating Change Agents ever since.
Their work over the years with both employers and recent graduates has only strengthened their view that it is the skills and experience that a graduate can demonstrate as supporting their formal studies that determine employability. Change Agents UK are now sharing the learning from their experiences to reveal exactly what these ‘Skills of a Change Agent’ include in practice.
The education landscape in the UK is currently responding to economic and policy changes that affect both students and provision. Students are more aware than ever of the need to balance study and skills development to give them the best chance of finding employment on graduation.
The Confederation of British Industry considers the key foundation of employability to be ‘a positive attitude: a ‘can-do’ approach, a readiness to take part and contribute, openness to new ideas and a drive to make these happen’.
As a result, institutions are now increasingly keen to ensure their graduates are equipped with employability skills before graduating and we have developed this exciting and innovative package to respond to this demand.

So, what are we offering?

The Package

We know that institutions are looking to ensure that the internal opportunities offered to their students are inspiring, coherent and most importantly fit for purpose. Our approach builds on the great work that is already happening in institutions and helps to take activity and engagement to the next level. This might be by:

- extending or deepening the reach of existing activity
- refreshing the existing activities
- determining the impact of current activity so it is valued by the institution and the students
- creating or strengthening links across the institution so that there is a coherent message and approach for skills development

We understand that institutional context varies and so have developed an approach that can be completely tailored to institutional need.

Working with you

The first step is to commit to working in partnership. You know what is already happening on your own campus. We will explore together what your specific institutional needs might be, based on your aspirations in order that we develop a bespoke strategy for implementing a “Skills of a Change Agent” package that meets your need. We can do this in a variety of ways such as:

- simple telephone conversations to explore what you already do well, what you would like to improve or where you might initiate new activity
- delivering a more interactive, exploratory, workshop approach to identifying your needs with your staff (or students)
- undertaking a more formal review and evaluation of your existing activity and its impact and efficacy

We want to support you to build on existing effective practice and deepen engagement so once we have identified any gaps in your provision or areas for invigoration or improvement we will make recommendations about which of our well-established tools and techniques might help you to develop your internal package. This might include:

- a bespoke induction package
- a workshop series
- webinars to support student engagement or staff training
- the development of work experience opportunities on or off-campus

We can also support the marketing and communications of your “Skills of a Change Agent” package.

This activity can be aligned to support your institutional work in a number of different areas including: curriculum development, enhancing the student experience, career planning, graduate attributes and skills development.

Costs: Please call us to discuss costs as these obviously vary depending on the level of support or input you require from us.

About the people behind the package:

Change Agents UK and ESD Solutions have created this exciting package by working in partnership to share and distil their skills, knowledge and experiences of working within institutions and with recent graduates. This means that you can expect professional, innovative delivery from people who really understand your context.

Email: contact@changeagents.org.uk  Telephone: 01572 723419