



THE PROBLEM TREE

HOW YOU CAN USE IT

1. List all problems that come to mind related to the main theme. (eg youth unemployment or lack of public funding) Problems need to be carefully identified: they should be existing problems, not possible, imagined or future ones. The problem is an existing negative situation, not the absence of a solution. The problems and solutions table presented below can help with this.
2. Identify a 'Core Problem' (which will be written on the trunk of the tree). This may involve some trial and error before settling on one.
3. Determine which problems are 'Causes' (write them at the level of the roots of the tree) and which are 'Effects' (the branches).
4. Arrange in hierarchy both Causes and Effects, i.e., how do the causes relate to each other - which leads to the other, etc.

KEY MESSAGE

Problem analysis is needed to make sure that the Local Support Group is tackling the right problem- one that has been discussed and agreed with all stakeholders.

One well established technique for working with problems in a group setting is to make a problem tree. This is a simple graphical representation of the problems, their causes and effects.

