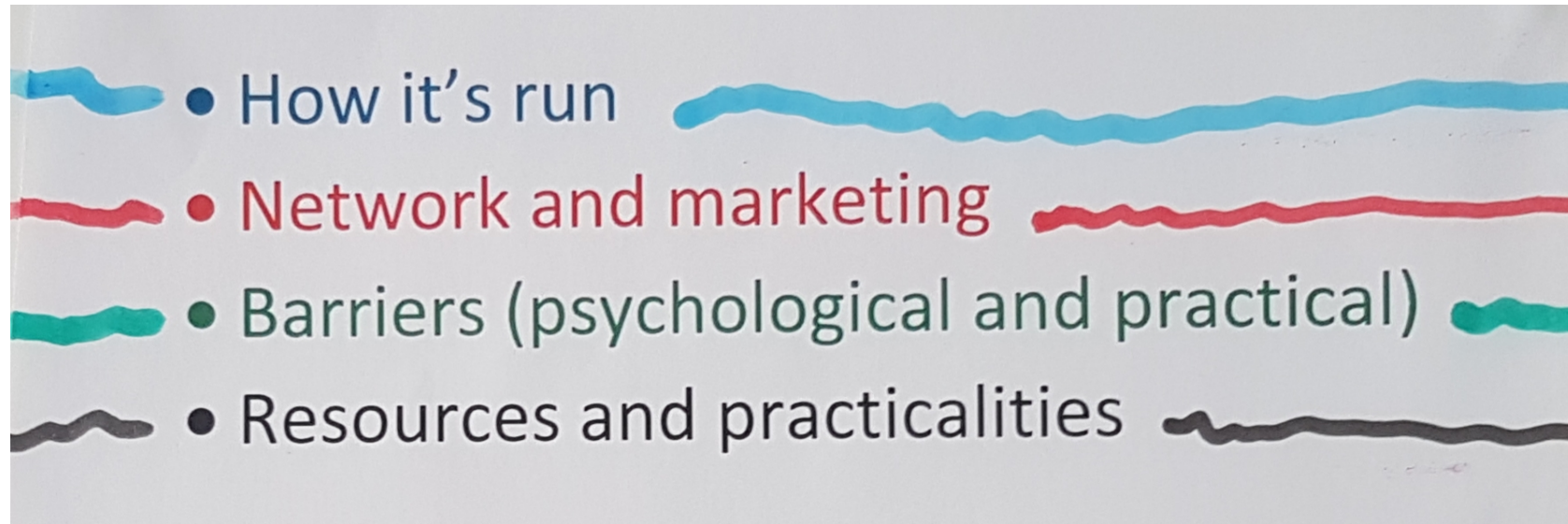
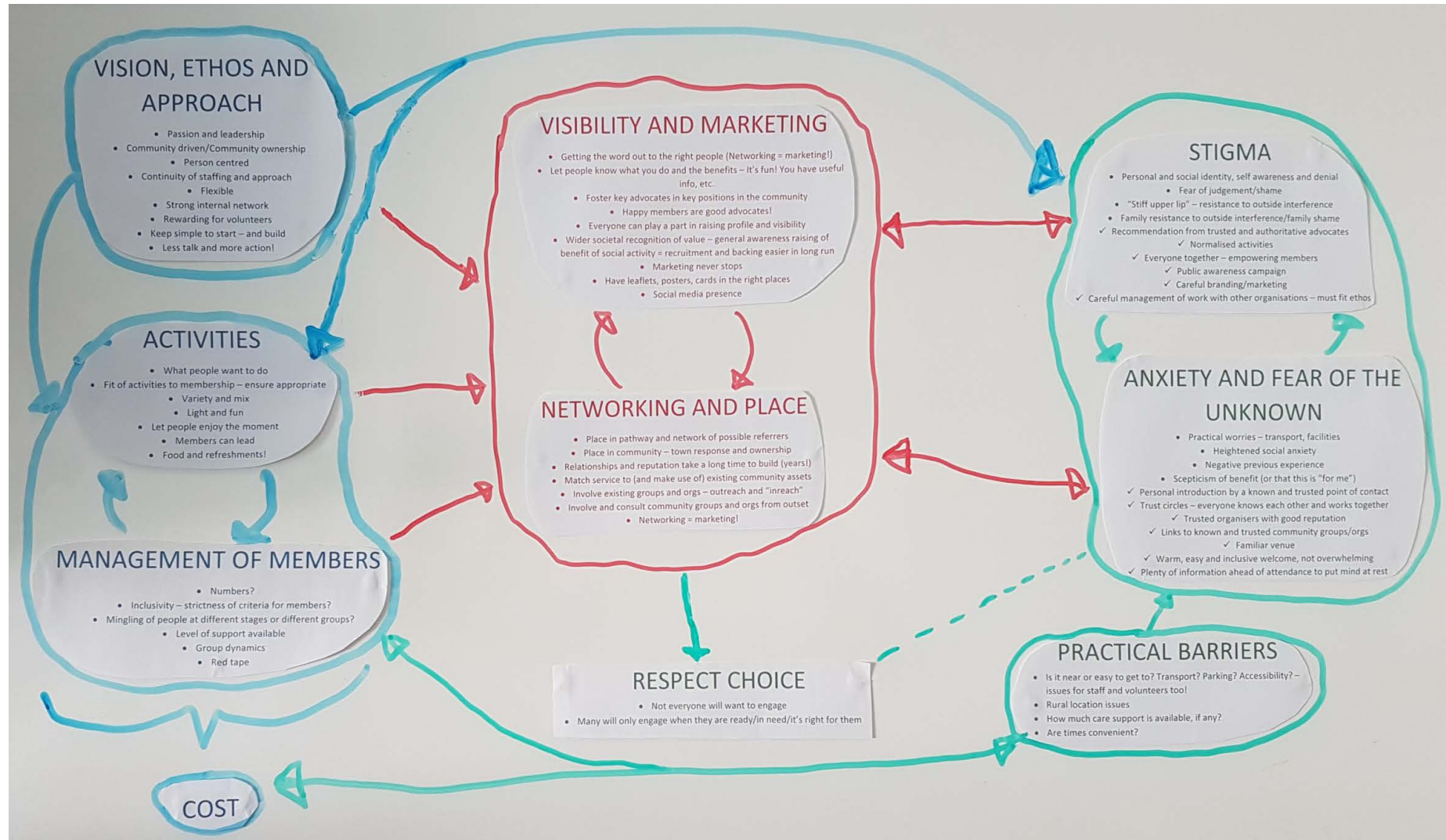


Supplementary file 1: Initial programme theory diagrams and coding themes

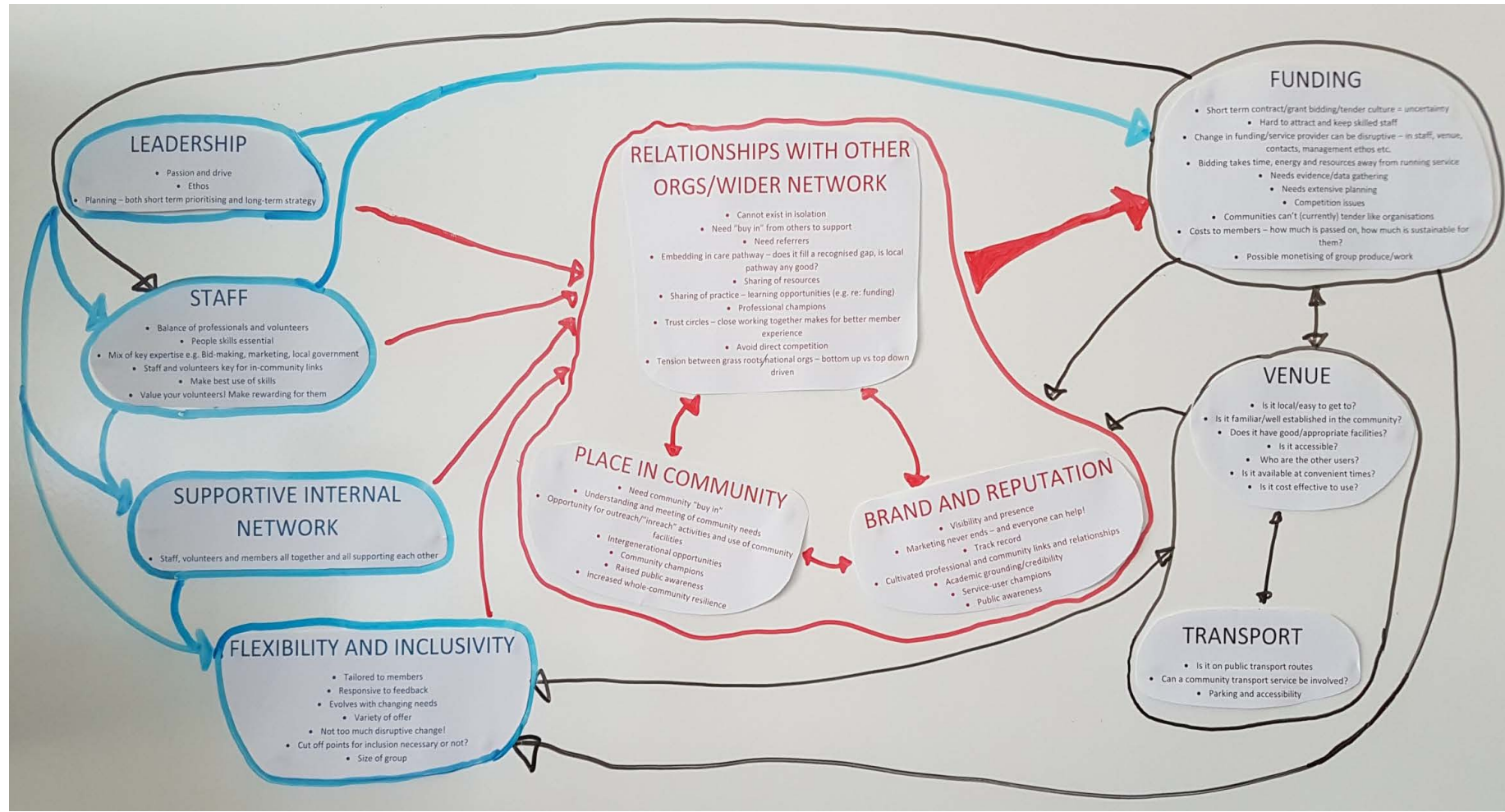
Key to colour coding:



Barriers and facilitators to engagement



Barriers and facilitators to sustainability



Top-level “parent” coding categories in NVivo analysis of the data

| Name | Files | References | | | |
|---|-------|------------|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| Leadership | | 54 | 226 | ● | “How it’s run” |
| Management of members (inc flexibility and inclusivity) | | 66 | 219 | ● | |
| Staff and volunteer issues | | 71 | 196 | ● | |
| Activities | | 94 | 577 | ● | |
| Ethos and approach | | 92 | 556 | ● | |
| Stability and reliability of provision | | 14 | 23 | ● | |
| Anxiety and fear of unknown | | 65 | 321 | ● | Barriers to engagement |
| Transport and geography | | 39 | 87 | ● | |
| Venue issues | | 60 | 203 | ● | |
| Attendee characteristics | | 62 | 216 | ● | |
| Difficulty becoming a member | | 23 | 50 | ● | Networking & marketing |
| Visibility and marketing | | 76 | 365 | ● | |
| Place in the community | | 67 | 295 | ● | |
| Relationships with other organisations | | 71 | 567 | ● | Money & resources |
| Funding issues | | 64 | 327 | ● | |
| Cost effectiveness issues | | 35 | 68 | ● | |