

Delivering Agile Explore and Agile QuickStart programmes to enable National Children's Bureau to decide whether to 'go agile' and to help position NCB to take on their first Agile project.



Background

National Children's Bureau (NCB) is a leading national charity supporting children, young people, families and those who work with them. NCB's vision is of a society in which all children and young people are valued, their rights respected and their responsibilities enhanced. NCB's mission is to advance the well-being of children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Business Issue

In the current economic climate, many organisations are considering adopting an Agile approach to software development. Agile offers increased pace of development, reduced costs and improvements in the quality of delivered software. Agile's iterative development approach ensures that fully tested, working software can be delivered quickly and efficiently.

The Challenge

To deliver a targeted training programme to introduce the Agile approach and methodologies to the internal IT team at NCB, in order to enable them to make a decision as to whether to implement Agile in their organisation, and to position them to run their first Agile project.

Solution

DB Consulting delivered two short, sharp programmes to help NCB make a decision and move forward.

We initiated the engagement with our Agile Explore service. Agile Explore is a very short (2 day) programme which helps organizations focus on business drivers and reasons for wanting to go Agile; describes the key principles of agile methodologies; and highlights the benefits and potential downsides/risks. We At NCB, we also included a review of current software development processes, to highlight issues and consider whether and how Agile might resolve these.

We followed up with Agile QuickStart, a 5 day programme incorporating a series of steps designed to get NCB up and running with their first agile project. The steps included: understanding which 'flavour' of Agile would work best, enabling a decision to be made on the right approach; understanding the changes to behaviours and business processes needed to embrace and realise the benefits of Agile (for example, for continuous development and delivery of software to be successful, both users and stakeholders must be continuously accessible to the development team to ensure the project can move forward at pace); creation of a clear and concise roadmap and transition plan to enable effective implementation of the new methodology; and finally identification of the key likely issues that may be encountered, along with appropriate countermeasures.

Results

DB Consulting delivered both programmes, Agile Explore and Agile QuickStart, to National Children's Bureau, enabling them make an informed decision to implement an agile approach to software development.

Armed with a clear understanding of what Agile delivers and requires, the NCB IT team were able to create a concise road-map and transition plan to move to Agile, and to embark on the first in house agile project with confidence.

DB Consulting

DB Consulting works with ambitious, forward-thinking companies aiming to achieve strategic business objectives through the deployment of modern Information Systems.

We design, build and support software for companies operating in a wide range of industries, using technology products from Microsoft, Oracle, IBM and other leading software vendors.

Contact Us

Nick Hill
t: 01753 626625
e: nhill@dbgroup.co.uk