Checklist for resolving conflicts in study groups

If certain aspects of your study group are not working out, it is a good idea to meet and try to resolve the problem together.

Group contract

Check the group contract which was made when the group was formed. Does anything need to be updated or changed? Is the group keeping its original agreements?

The conflict

Consider whether the conflict is personal or professional in nature. Remember, it is okay to have different professional opinions. If the conflict is of a personal nature, it is worth considering whether you have be- come too friendly and are involving per- sonal issues in the group work. Remember, group work is a professional collaboration.

Take turns to speak

Take turns for listening to each group member without interruptions, so everyone is given the chance to explain what they feel is not working and what could be improved.

Evaluation

Remember to carry out an ongoing evaluation of the group's work. Is everyone given a chance to contribute? Does anyone feel that they are doing too large a share of the work?

Help

If you are unable to solve the group's problems internally, consider bringing in external help. This could be in the form of a lecturer, student counsellor or the student advice service. Re- member that lecturers and instructors are re- sponsible for and benefit from their students being in successful study groups.