When new to the ECHO method, we understand it can be puzzling to decipher whether you would like to set up an ECHO Knowledge Network or simply host a Zoom meeting, so to help you battle this conundrum we’ve put together a simple explanation of each and a few pointers to guide you.

**What is an ‘ECHO Knowledge Network’?**

An ECHO Knowledge Network is a community of practice who set their own curriculum of learning and share best practice in order to improve their decision making or service delivery.

Knowledge networks are supported by dedicated administration and IT staff and a trained facilitator to create a safe and effective space where adult learning and support can happen.

Knowledge Network sessions are based on the principle of ‘all teachers, all learners’ and collaborative problem solving, which guides the structure of a 10-20 minute presentation from the ‘Hub’ and typically two case presentations from the ‘Spokes’. However more important than the agenda are the ECHO principles and ethos of respect, mutual support affirmation and spoke driven agenda setting.

When considering setting up an ECHO Knowledge network, it’s important to ask yourself:

- Have I had experience of seeing ECHO methodology in action?
- Can I identify a community of practice who are passionate about improving in a particular area and are willing to spend time with others who share that passion to learn, teach and support each other?
- Do I think that the ECHO methodology would work in building and supporting such a community of practice?
- Can I identify a champion and facilitator(s) who would be able to inspire and develop the community of practice using the ECHO methodology?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then it sounds like Project ECHO is for you!
What is a ‘Zoom’ meeting?

Zoom is Project ECHO’s preferred choice of video conferencing platform; however this doesn’t mean that ECHO Knowledge Network Sessions are prohibited from running on any other platforms. Zoom is the preferred platform because it works well has good video, audio and screen sharing facilities and uses narrow bandwidth and is free for ECHO partners (providing it is used for ECHO purposes).

When considering using Zoom, you should be asking yourself,

- ‘Would I like to enhance my communication by making a video call instead of a telephone call?’

- ‘Do I want to host a webinar?’

- ‘Do I want to broadcast a piece of information to a large group of people?’

- ‘Do I need to share my screen or presentation with someone or see someone else’s screen?’

- ‘Do I want to build a better relationship with someone who isn’t able to visit the office very often but who wants to participate in committee or other meetings?’

If you find yourself wanting to do any of those things, then using Zoom could benefit you.