

HOW-TO GUIDE 2: The Ethical Partnership Charter

This guide explains how to use the Charter in practice – there are a number of points at which this Charter can be put into practice throughout the lifetime of the partnership. This Charter is a useful tool to introduce some challenging topic areas in a soft, collegiate way. The Charter is designed to keep youth-centred values at the heart of decision making while giving both sectors a simple, repeatable structure for ethical partnership working.

➤ USE IT AT THE VERY START OF CONVERSATIONS

- Share the charter with the partner organisation before any exploratory meeting.
- Ask both organisations to reflect on how their missions, values, and past work align with the charter’s principles (e.g., wellbeing, safety, equity, transparency, culture, trust).
- Use the *Purpose* section to test genuine alignment.

➤ TURN THE PRINCIPLES INTO CONCRETE COMMITMENTS

Work through the four charter sections — Purpose, People, Practice, Partnership — and translate each statement into practical actions.

Example:

- **Safety:** Define the safeguarding processes, data policies, and online protections required.
- **Transparency:** Agree roles, decision-making routes, escalation paths, and opt-out mechanisms.
- **Culture:** Share organisational ethos, boundaries, and ways of working to avoid misunderstandings.

These should be written into a shared working document or Memorandum of Understanding.

➤ USE THE CHARTER IN PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

- Include a 5–10 minute “charter check-in” on agenda templates.
- Use the charter as a neutral reference when making decisions or resolving tensions.

➤ MAKE IT PART OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Share child-friendly versions with young people where appropriate.
- Use the charter’s *Youth Focus* and *Equity* sections to design meaningful youth involvement and fair compensation.

➤ USE THE DUE-DILIGENCE CLAUSE TO CHECK ETHICAL COMPATIBILITY

The charter includes a statement on proportionate due diligence to ensure partners' practices align ethically.

Use this to examine:

- Environmental record
- Human rights history
- Safeguarding track record
- Reputational risks
- Integrity of motivations
- USE IT DURING DELIVERY
 - Refer back to the charter whenever roles shift, risks appear, or expectations change.
 - Use it to sense-check whether youth experience remains safe, meaningful, and equitable.
- USE IT AT ENDING OR RENEWAL
 - Evaluate how well the partnership lived up to each section.
 - Use the charter to shape a responsible exit or a renewed agreement rooted in shared values.
- IN SUMMARY

Your charter is a practical tool, not a display poster. In practice, the charter should be used to:

- Shape early conversations
- Guide partnership design
- Keep delivery ethical and youth-centred
- Hold both parties accountable
- Review and improve the collaboration
- Inform responsible endings or renewals

Ultimately, the charter works best when it becomes a shared habit: a living document that both partners actively use to protect young people, strengthen equity, and build trust between the youth work and technology sectors.