**Professional learning resource: youth work and school partnerships**

**Workbook**

This workbook accompanies the [Professional Learning Resource: Youth Work and School Partnerships](https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/media/7290/professional-learning-resource-ywpluss-final.pdf) . You may find it helpful to use this booklet as a space to record and consolidate your learning as you work through the resource. It may also be useful to share thoughts with colleagues, so as to identify common themes for development.

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| **Activity 1: Starting point** |
| Answer these questions so you can reflect on them later.  Q1. What are you hoping to learn from the contents of this resource?  Q2. What is your current practice/role in partnership working with schools/youth work?   * What did you want to achieve? * Why did you think this would be better achieved in partnership?   Q3. What do you think the impact from the learning in this resource will be on your practice? |

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| **Activity 2: Your experience to date** |
| Think of a time you were working in partnership with an organisation/s or team and answer the questions below.  Q1. How did you define this partnership?  Q2. How did this influence your expectations?  Q3. How did you find the experience of working together?  Q4. How did each individual support, or hinder, the development of the partnership and how you worked as a team? |

**Why should youth work and schools collaborate?**

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| Added Value of Partnership | | | | | |
| Collective knowledge, skills, expertise | | | | | |
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| Better co-ordination of services | Best use of resources and time. | Increased skills and knowledge of practitioners | Stronger relationships between practitioners | Increased and enhanced opportunities for young people to achieve their potential | Increased engagement and expands reach |
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| **Improved outcomes for children and young people** | | | | | |

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| **Activity 3: What is the added value of my partnership working?** |
| Consider an example of where you have worked in partnership with a school/youth work provider.  Using the diagram above to help, answer the following questions:  Q1. What knowledge, skills and expertise did each partner bring to the work?  Q2. How did this add value – i.e. what did this enable you to do differently, or better, together?   * How did this work benefit each partner?   Q3. What difference did this make to learners?  Q4. What didn’t work well? What would you do differently? What did you learn from this experience? |

**What makes an effective partnership?**

The Youth Work and Schools Collaborative identified 8 key characteristics of effective collaboration:

* *Mutual trust and respect*
* *Clear, agreed purpose and aims*
* *Shared understanding of roles, responsibilities and approaches*
* *Common professional language*
* *Sharing of skills, knowledge and experience*
* *Joint planning and evaluation of progress (shared accountability)*
* *Open, regular communication and review*
* *Young people’s voice is representative, heard and valued*

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| **Activity 4: How effective is my partnership working?** | | |
| Take a few minutes to think about a partnership you’ve been part of with a school/youth work provider. Which of the key characteristics were present? What impact did this have? Which were most evident? | | |
| Key characteristics | Is this evident in your example? | What impact did this have on your experience of the partnership and outcomes for children and young people? |
| Mutual trust and respect |  |  |
| Clear, agreed purpose and aims |  |  |
| Shared understanding of roles, responsibilities and approaches |  |  |
| Common professional language |  |  |
| Sharing of skills, knowledge and experience |  |  |
| Joint planning and evaluation of progress (shared accountability) |  |  |
| Open, regular communication and review |  |  |
| Young people’s voice is representative, heard and valued |  |  |

**Developing effective partnerships**

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| **Activity 5: Why should we work in partnership?** | |
| Answer the following questions | |
| Q1. Why do you want to collaborate with the school/youth work partner – how will working with them add value to what you’re doing on your own? |  |
| Q2. Why would they want to work with you? - think about what you bring as a practitioner as well as your service or organisation. |  |
| Q3. What do you want from the partnership? (e.g. a sustainable partnership, or to deliver one intervention/project) |  |
| Q4. How would it help meet local need? – what data/evidence do you have? |  |
| Q5. How have young people been involved in identifying the need for this work/this partnership? |  |
| Q6. How would you support the involvement of young people in decision making around this partnership? |  |
| Q7. How would the partnership support your organisation’s wider priorities/CLD or school plans? |  |
| Q8. What are the potential partner’s priorities? e.g. school improvement or CLD plan |  |
| Q9. What capacity (skills, knowledge, experience, time, and resources) do you have to effectively deliver this work? |  |
| Q10. How will you manage expectations from the partner and young people regarding your organisation’s role? |  |

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| **Activity 6: Sustaining the partnership** |
| Q1: How will you and the partners future proof the work within schools and ensure the work is embedded in the educational experience for young people? |