



GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR CONSORTIA WORKING

Working as part of a consortia takes organisational time and resources. Whether an organisation is large or small it is the trustees who ultimately carry the legal responsibility for the charity and it's the trustees role to ensure that resources are used to best affect.

Once trustees have taken the step to be part of a formal consortia arrangement, responsibilities don't end there. It's important that trustees practice good governance by regularly reflecting on partnership arrangements; ensuring that the partnership is effective and continues to:

- be in the best interests of the charity and it's beneficiaries
- make the best use of charitable resources
- work in accordance with governing documents, charity law and any other relevant legislation

A quick and simple annual review will do this. We've put together a review template that can provide a framework for trustees to just step back, question and reflect; helping to assess if the consortia and partnership arrangements are still working; whether it still adds value to their organisations and their beneficiaries and identify what further actions may be required .

| PARTNERSHIP / CONSORTIA REVIEW | Yes / No | Actions |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| <p>1. Does the partnership arrangement continue to be in the best interests of our charity and our beneficiaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is it improving the quality, diversity or reach of the support and services available to our beneficiaries? b. Is it enabling us to share and make best use of ours and others resources? c. Have we made any efficiencies or cost savings? d. Is the time, effort and money we are investing into the partnership worth it? e. Is the partnership compromising other areas of our work? f. Are we continuing to operate within our charitable objects? <p>2. Is the partnership arrangement making a difference?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Are we working towards achieving the agreed shared vision and mission? b. Are we working in accordance with the agreed shared values? c. Are there any challenges we can foresee for the next 12 months? d. Are there further opportunities for our partnership/consortia for the next 12 months? e. Have we consulted with stakeholders about the impact of the partnership? f. Have we responded to stakeholder feedback? <p>3. Are the governance arrangements effective?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Are consortia meetings focused and productive? b. Are conflicts of interest managed? c. Are trustees managing individual, organisational and consortia priorities? d. Is there an effective system in place for managing and monitoring performance? e. Are up to date management accounts produced and scrutinised at each | | |

meeting?

- f. Is there any new or impending legislation that the trustees need to consider or implement through joint policies and procedures?
- g. Have we a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities we are supporting?
- h. Do we have a Board with the right skills, knowledge and experience to take us forward for the next 12 months?

4. Are we operating efficiently together?

- a. Are we making best use of our collective resources?
- b. Are we communicating effectively across organisations?
- c. Are there practical, operational difficulties that are impacting upon the delivery of the agreement?
- d. Are our individual internal policies and procedures creating conflicts compatible and/or have they been consolidated?
- e. Have we an overarching process for monitoring and reporting?
- f. Are lines of responsibility clear and appropriately delegated?

5. What are the longer term plans for the partnership/consortia?

- a. Is the partnership arrangement time or resource limited?
- b. Is there an exit strategy or a strategy for continuing the partnership?
- c. Does the partnership fit in with our long term organisational strategy?
- d. Have we enough financial resources available to sustain the partnership?
- e. Have we the staff resources available to support the partnership work?