

How to build an effective partnership

Developed through Lancashire and South Cumbria's test, learn and review initiative

In Lancashire and South Cumbria, statutory and voluntary sector professionals have been working together to design, test and deliver improved health outcomes for local people.

We've identified nine puzzle pieces for creating connections that enable meaningful collaboration.

1. Share resources

Think about what can be achieved if, often individually limited, resources are shared across the entire system. How could you approach this?

2. Roles

Understand your individual and collective roles in the local and wider systems, and what 'working together' means.

3. Collaborative champions

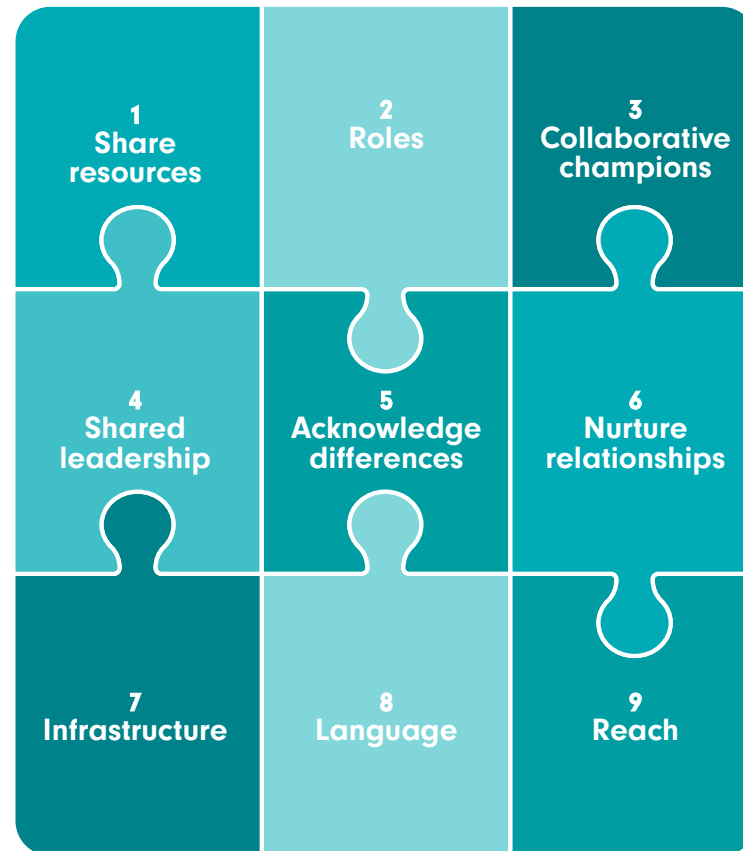
Identify individuals who will step across organisational boundaries and seek opportunities for meaningful collaboration.

4. Shared leadership

Explore connections with relevant work that encourages shared leadership at the neighbourhood and Integrated Care Partnership level.

5. Acknowledge differences

Take a ground-up approach that acknowledges differences in local populations, and introduce clear structures for partnership working to sustain collaboration.



6. Nurture relationships

Take time to step back and work on relationships with partners to ensure you aren't making unhelpful assumptions or creating barriers.

7. Infrastructure

Demystify your infrastructure to ensure all partners understand each other's set-ups; and recognise that collaboration needs to be resourced.

8. Language

Establish a common language – the word 'partner' might mean different things to different people.

9. Reach

Appreciate and evaluate how the partnership has allowed you to extend your reach and better support local people.

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See the inspiration behind these puzzle pieces at: <https://www.ivar.org.uk/vcfs-pcn-together-for-local-health>