

Principles of Practice for Community-University Partnership Working



What do we mean by community-university partnership working?

A specific and organised activity, action or project which involves and is intended to benefit both the local community and the university.

Community-university partnerships can take many forms including, but not limited to:

- Design and implementation of research
- Participation in research
- Activities or placements for student learning
- Advice or training or service evaluations
- Access to and use of university facilities

The following principles are intended to equip all parties in community-university partnerships with clear foundations for clarifying expectations on which to build their working relationship.

The Principles

All members of the partnership will aspire to:

1. Build a shared understanding of the purpose of the activity/action/project whilst recognising the differing agendas and motivations of those involved
2. Recognise and respect each other's expertise
3. Set out well-defined roles and responsibilities, and clear timelines for all involved
4. Create an environment of transparency and honesty
5. Provide timely updates and inclusion in project progress, throughout the project cycle
6. Maintain open channels of communication, with nominated contacts at each organisation
7. Discuss areas of difference in constructive ways
8. Reflect on the partnership throughout the process and bring to the table any issues which could affect the relationship

Please add your own agreed principles here

9.

10.

Agreed and signed by

Community partner.....

University.....

Date.....

What now?

- You might want to consider drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding and/or a project plan/timeline
- Schedule opportunities to check in and monitor progress
- Take a look at the resources on offer from the [UK Community Partner Network](#)
- Read the NCCPE guide to [Working in partnership](#)
- Read the [Community-based Participatory Research: A guide to ethical principles and practice](#)