Collaboration for safer care for all

professional standards authority

In early June 2023, we held a virtual symposium and asked: 'how can we successfully collaborate to ensure safer care for all?'
A range of speakers shared their thoughts, experience and expertise on the benefits, disadvantages and lessons to be learned when collaborating.

- Types of collaboration
- Benefits of collaboration
- Things you need
- How to make it better

Types of collaboration

Common goal/product for improvement
Working together to a common output or specific goals or products for improvement

Addressing shared risks & problems
Addressing shared risks and problems as they arise, efficiently, appropriately, and adaptively

Working to a shared purpose
Working to common value-adding outcomes or shared purposes

Exchanging data/ sharing information
Exchanging data between organisations with shared interests

Exchanging insight
Collaborating to exhange insight and learning

Establishing communities of practice
Collaborating to establish communities of practice

Engaging across diverse groups
Collaboration for engaging across diverse stakeholder groups

Formal/informal
Formal (top/down) and informal (bottom/up)

Local, national, global
Collaboration can be across small local to diverse global groups

A project could involve, a few or even all of these different types of collaboration

Benefits of Collaboration

Enables agility
Provides agile and dynamic responses to those shared problems which span organisational remits

Avoids duplication
Enables bespoke solutions, avoiding duplication and waste

Broadens perspectives
Enables exploration of shared challenges from a broader, multi-disciplinary perspective

Builds consensus
Builds consensus and impetus in addressing shared risks

Bridges gaps
Bridges gaps between organisations and systems – promotes joined-up working

Builds Coherence
Builds coherence across organisational remits & supports consistency of approaches, where beneficial

Builds trust
The value of building trust should never be under-estimated

Enhances accountability
Enhances accountability for how public money is spent, generating value that is more than the sum of the parts

Things you need

Clarity
Clear strategy, vision, mission, purpose, and/or goals agreed between the collaborating parties, supported by clear boundaries

Resources
Resources, including those needed to sustain momentum after the initial stages and later, as people come and go

Shared responsibility
Shared governance, decision-making, escalation and information sharing arrangements that enable and empower those managing the collaboration day-to-day

Leadership
Leadership with an appropriate style and approach

Support
Support from different parts of the collaborating organisations

Trust
Trust, bravery and ambition

Energy
Energy, stamina and commitment

Exit
A clear exit point

How to make it better

- Involve the beneficiaries of the collaboration in design and operation
- Communicate between collaborators, with beneficiaries, and to the wider public
- Articulate the value being added, the influence and impact being achieved, and keep doing so throughout the life of the collaboration to sustain momentum
- Be honest and candid, in particular about areas of challenge, conflict, ambiguity, compromise and cultural difference
- Create safe space and trust between collaborators to enable the inevitable difficulties to be overcome
- Be proactive, inclusive and innovative, encouraging creativity and as wide a range of views as possible to be brought into play
- Evaluate, feed back and learn

Find out more
www.professionalstandards.org.uk/safer-care-for-all