

## **1. What is a partnership?**

While there is no single definition of 'partnership working', the Big Lottery Fund describes it in its partnership guidance for funded projects as:

"A process in which two or more organisations or groups work together to achieve a common goal, and do so in such a way that they achieve more effective outcomes than by working separately. This involves the sharing of skills and resources in a climate of mutual understanding, trust and respect."

"A partnership may involve two or more organisations from the public, private or voluntary sectors. It may be a local partnership focused on a small area such as a neighbourhood, it could cover a larger area such as a city, or have a regional or national focus. Partnerships can range from informal information sharing and consultation networks to formal partnerships with their own partnership agreement. The structure will depend on the amount of control that the partners wish to have over the joint work. This in turn depends on the purpose of the partnership, the type of work to be carried out and the level of risk involved for each organisation."

## **2. Why evaluate your partnership?**

There are many different reasons why an organisation may want to evaluate their partnership, including:

- being able to maintain a partnership during personnel changes
- proving to others you know how to work in partnership
- shining a light on problems
- avoiding pitfalls in future partnerships
- learning how to improve a partnership
- to compare against not working in partnership
- to prove the benefits when applying for funding
- to get feedback on partners contributions