

# CHYP-ING: Partnerships and Strategic Working

## Round-up from the first CHYP-ING Forum on partnerships and strategic working

On 24 April, we hosted the first of three CHYP-ING forums in 2019 for organisations working with children and young people in Newcastle and Gateshead. The theme was partnerships and strategic working and we invited a panel of four guest speakers to talk about their experiences of partnership working. Their advice is useful and inspiring, and applies across our sector, not just to those working with children and young people.

**Ruth Oxley from Sunderland All Together Consortium CIO** spoke about how this unique project was formed and how

our Support and Development team assisted with their legal structure. She described the challenges of working closely with former competitors but also highlighted the many benefits of a collaborative partnership, such as ability to work over a larger geographical area, attracting investment and ensuring that services meet the needs of their community.

**Emma Leggott, Community Engagement Officer from Byker Community Trust** (the local Housing Association) and **Roweena Russell from Byker Community Centre** talked about how an informal partnership involving a range of organisations enables them to coordinate activity and work more effectively together to achieve positive change in the community of Byker.



### **Joanne Jopling introduced Young Women's Outreach Project**

in Gateshead and spoke about how sharing a building with, and offering hot desks to complementary projects enables them to direct people to get the right support, pool resources and generate added income. Their partnership approach has also enabled them to offer their valuable experience of setting up outreach projects for young women and girls to a new charity offering equivalent support services to young men and boys.

### **Donna Stubbs introduced the national organisation Street Games**

and their work in partnership with local organisations harnessing the power of sport to create positive change in the lives of disadvantaged young people. A new project funded by the Department of Education will run in Newcastle during the summer holidays of 2019 to combat holiday hunger. They will be using this funding to work with partner organisations to run activities and serve nutritious food to over 10,000 children.

### **Ben Dickenson from City of Dreams**

shared their 10 year strategy, agreed by 50 partners, to make Newcastle and Gateshead 'the best place to be young'. Vital to this strategy was allowing a year for the partnership to develop and gather insight from 1,000 young people to drive their vision.

**Our panel of four speakers then answered questions about what it's like to work in partnership and offered useful advice from their first hand experiences.**

### **Here are some of the key thoughts and tips they shared:**

- It's not always easy to apply for funding in partnerships but if you have trust in each other and faith that you are driven by community need then you will be successful.
- You should never have to change your core values for collaborative work but you may need to consider new approaches and think about your work differently.
- National charities who want to work with smaller local charities should recognise that some small charities have a deeper understanding of local community need. They should listen and involve them in the whole process.
- Sometimes organisations worry that if they develop a partnership funding bid they will miss out individually but actually this isn't the case and often the outcome is better.
- It's important to remember that partnership working isn't just about funding bids; it's about coming together for the good of your community.
- A strong partnership needs time to develop and build trust. It needs to become embedded in the day job.
- It's helpful to everyone if we share success stories and support each other. 'There's a can do feel in this room.'

CHYP-ING is just one of several networking events that we offer. If you are interested to know about upcoming events, visit our Training and Events page at: [www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk/our-services/training-and-events](http://www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk/our-services/training-and-events)

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