Formal and Informal Partnerships

More and more the Voluntary and Community sector is expected to work in partnership with other projects and organisations in order to bid for tenders and to deliver services. This approach also applies within volunteering programmes, as resources are often limited and those managing volunteer projects need to be creative in how they source support, training and access to budgets etc.

Partnership working and collaboration between organisations, projects and individuals can work both formally and informally. Take some time to research what's happening within your own organisation in this area and also look at other local, regional and national groups and projects in your field to find out how formal and informal partnerships are formed and developed.

Further information about partnership working and collaboration can be found via the NCVO website: http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/ (There are different levels of access – ask whether your organisation is a member)

1. What sort of partnerships and networks are present within your organisation?

2. How might partnership organisations or projects work more effectively together to achieve a shared mission?

3. What are the potential risks and benefits of working in partnership?	
Risks:	
Benefits:	

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4. **From your research, capture some examples of different partnerships and explain whether they are formal or informal, plus how decision making happens between the parties involved:**

Example – which organisations or projects?	Formal or informal?	How does decision making happen?