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