

Powerful Partnerships: Self-reflection Activities

These self-reflection activities are underpinned by the Powerful Partnerships framework and are designed to help assess your strategic partnership's strengths and weaknesses, and map your journey to becoming a powerful partnership.

Thinking about the [13 Ingredients for Powerful Partnerships](#) and what they mean for your strategic partnership. Use the following self-reflection activities to assess where you are now, explore your priorities, and begin to create a timeline for your next steps.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Taking each of the 13 Ingredients for a Powerful Partnership, think about which ones your strategic partnership does well and which you may need to work on.

Understanding Powerful Partnerships

Map each of the 13 Ingredients for a Powerful Partnership onto a grid to identify quick wins – high priority and easy to implement – and longer-term projects which require more resource or time.

Mapping Your Partnership

Keeping in mind the strengths, weakness, and priorities you have identified through the previous self-reflection activities, create a timeline to start thinking about when you can make things happen.

Reflecting on Your Partnership

Review the 13 ingredients for Powerful Partnerships (LINK) together and consider the following reflection questions:

1. How do you (or how will you) ensure access, inclusion, equity and environmental sustainability underpin the decisions you make as a partnership?
2. How have you (or how will you) developed relationships and built trust and consensus across the partnership?
3. How are (or how will) individual priorities being met? Do you have a common goal or vision to guide your activities? How was it created?
4. Do you (or will you) have a business plan? How effective is this to ensure collective action, guide decisions, plan activities, set budgets and review performance?
5. How does (or how will) the partnership support leadership development and knowledge exchange?

6. Does (or how will) everyone feel they can share and contribute perspectives, ideas, resources and skills?

Reflecting on Your Strategy and Impact

1. How ambitious, relevant, and impactful are your aims and opportunities? How are you fostering innovation as a partnership?
2. How have you gone about analysing current cultural education provisions needs? How are you building on the strengths of current offers for children and young people, such as Artsmark and Arts Award? How do you use data to make decisions about your work?
3. How have you created a shared identity? Do you have internal and external marketing and communications plans and processes?
4. How do you describe the value of your offer to children, young people and schools, across the partnership and publicly?
5. Do you have a theory of change and/or impact measurement framework that drives your activities? How was it created? How effective is it as a working document?
6. How do you evaluate the impact of your work including the effectiveness of your partnership and the quality of activities?
7. How do children and young people, schools or the wider community shape strategy and/or delivery?