

Developing Community Partnerships: Guidelines for Student Groups and Institutions in Scotland's Colleges and Universities

Student groups and institutions across Scotland are increasingly creating and developing opportunities to work in partnership with their local communities. These partnerships may be established through the institution or the students' association and may be part of a volunteering scheme, offered to students as part of the curriculum, or initiated by a student society.

When they are successful, community partnerships can be enormously impactful for all involved. These guidelines are designed to provide a foundation for student groups and institutions in Scotland to create successful community partnerships that enhance the student experience while simultaneously benefiting local communities.

Develop a community outreach plan

Create a plan that outlines your institution or student group's community outreach goals and strategies. This should include identifying key priorities and establishing communication channels.



Identify key community partners

Identify potential community partners who share your priorities. This might include local businesses, non-profit organisations and community groups.



Define the purpose of the partnership

Clearly define the purpose of the partnership and what each party hopes to achieve. This will help ensure that everyone is working towards a shared goal.



Identify shared goals

Identify shared goals and work together to achieve them. This can include developing joint projects or initiatives that benefit both the institution and the community.



Establish clear communication channels

Establish clear communication channels and keep all partners informed of progress and any changes. Communication is essential for building trust and maintaining good relationships.



Respect cultural differences

Be aware of cultural differences and respect the values and customs of your partners. This will help build trust and create a positive working relationship.



Build capacity within the community

Build capacity within the community by providing training and development opportunities. This can help create a skilled workforce and increase community engagement.



Collaborate with other institutions

Collaborate with other institutions and students' associations to create joint initiatives that benefit local communities. This can include joint research projects or sharing resources to create a greater impact.



Be inclusive

Be inclusive and respectful of the diverse cultures and communities in Scotland. This can include providing translation services and adapting resources to meet the needs of different communities.



Be flexible

Be flexible and open to new ideas and approaches. Community partnerships require a willingness to adapt and change as circumstances evolve.



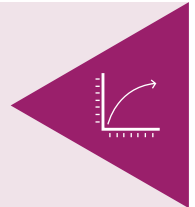
Foster innovation

Foster innovation by encouraging staff and students to explore new approaches to community engagement. This can include developing new technologies or programmes that benefit local communities.



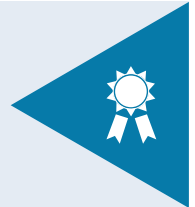
Monitor and evaluate progress

Regularly monitor and evaluate progress towards shared goals. This will help identify areas for improvement and ensure that the partnership is achieving its intended outcomes.



Recognise contributions

Recognise the contributions of all partners and celebrate successes. This will help build trust and maintain a positive working relationship.



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