



## Exploring Community Partnerships in Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Summary of workshop delivered at the Enhancement Themes Conference, 14 June 2023

On 14 June 2023, members of the Student-led Project Steering Group ran a workshop at QAA Scotland's Enhancement Themes Conference, entitled *Exploring Community Partnerships in Learning, Teaching and Assessment*. You can view the [workshop presentation](#) on the Enhancement Themes website.

This workshop explored how students, students' associations and their institutions engage with the community outside of their college or university, with a particular focus on learning, teaching and assessment spaces.

The group considered how we can most effectively develop successful community partnerships by focusing on three stages of this process: establishing community partnerships, delivering community partnerships, and evaluating and enhancing community partnerships.

#### **Establishing community partnerships**

Some of the key themes the group identified under this topic were tying any projects to the institution's strategy and the importance of establishing institutional buy-in; involving the local community in student campaigns and forums; and establishing clear guidelines for the project early on, while also ensuring these are not overly prohibitive.

#### **Delivering community partnerships**

Some of the key themes the group identified under this topic were the importance of establishing and maintaining lines of communication; having a clear strategy for training and on-boarding of partners; making sure all stakeholders have clear roles, while also balancing this with not overburdening any one individual or group; and, where possible, integrating and embedding opportunities for engagement into a course of study.

#### **Evaluating and enhancing community partnerships**

Some of the key themes the group identified under this topic were gathering feedback from all stakeholders (students, community partner and institution) and running a shared debrief; establishing KPIs from the start; and balancing more quantifiable targets with personal reflections.

The workshop then explored the value of community partnerships for each stakeholder group. These are some of the benefits for each group identified by the participants:

### **Community partners**

- The institution becomes 'demystified' and is more accessible for future engagement opportunities.
- Continuing professional development for individuals involved in the organisations.
- Opportunity for organisation and its services to benefit from targeted research.
- Gaining new ideas and practices from students and institutional staff.

### **Institution and institutional staff**

- Improved relationship with local community.
- Enhanced teaching and practice.
- The opportunity to receive funding for research projects.
- Research and knowledge exchange.

### **Students**

- Opportunity to take part in applied/work-related learning.
- Gaining a different life perspective.
- Gaining a service user perspective where the community partner works in contexts such as healthcare.

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