Tips for successful partnerships with organisations outside academia for better mental health research

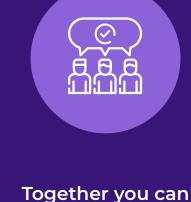
This infographic was created from contributions in a #MentalHealthResearchMatters webinar, focused on

partnerships with nonacademic organisations. Lived experience collaboration

is also a crucial component in mental health research, which we have explored in another infographic.



Why are research partnerships with organisations worthwhile?



different expertise.

approach a challenge with



networks and perspectives.



populations you are trying to reach. Both to shape research and carry it out.



findings.



support an approach and read summary briefings.



people are facing.

Different timelines

Challenges



teams to deliver timely research to meet all partner needs can be tricky.

Risks of tokenism Partnerships need time to develop with roles emerging that suit everyone's needs. A risk is that

non-academic organisations are brought into

Organisations may have higher turnovers of staff

or shorter-term goals than academics. Aligning



collaborations 'last minute' and are poorly resourced with small, inadequate budgets.

Language challenges "It's not what you say, it's what people hear". -Partner organisations will want to use language that is approachable and impactful for an audience and light on jargon. This can be at odds with the

language typically used in academic papers.

Approach a partnership with curiosity and an open

example the language you use.

values or goals.

Tips for better partnership working



the topics that you are interested in. Take the time to get to know one another. Explore differences in opinion early on. Jointly agree

test any changes that might need to be made - for

shared ways of working together. Discuss, debate and

mind. Share openly the challenges that you face and

Give a lot of thought to who you'd like to partner with

and why. Find the organisations that align with your



as well as what they can

This could include:

LISTEN

PLAN

Think about what you can offer an organisation,

Evidence to highlight

policy problems and

support policy change.

offer you.





An indepedant,

authoritative voice that

can communicate the

case for change.

EAMWORK Listen to one another about what the different pressures are, and be positive about the Everyone is important and differences partners bring. adds value. Communication

- it can lead to future projects too!

#MentalHealthResearchMatters

is key.

Reasonable proposal, evidence based with clear potential

from the beginning, not as a minimal add on.

Ensure the contribution of

all partners is well resourced

FUNDING

Build long-term relationships for better-quality partnerships. A successful partnership isn't just one project

