**Top tips**

**Partnership Working**

As part of the Family Support Volunteering pilot we worked with a number of partnerships across the statutory and voluntary sector. Successful collaborative working does require investment of time and resources, but one of the key benefits is that a partnership approach enables organisations to reach a greater number of families through having a broader referral base.

Some tips for developing successful partnerships are set out here.

1. In choosing a partner to work with in Family Support Volunteering, think about the vision, mission, culture and purpose of any potential partner, so that there can be as much alignment as possible.
2. Engage senior staff at each organisation, so that there is organisational commitment to the project.
3. Communicate with the right people in the right way, at the right time – developing early positive relationships is really important.
4. Establish and create ground rules, developing a written agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding so that roles and responsibilities of each organisation are defined and there are clear ground rules for the partnership.
5. Focus on action and be clear about how you are measuring results and outcomes that matter.
6. Be flexible. All organisations have ‘pinch points’. Be sympathetic to these.
7. Manage the collaboration effectively and actively with an action plan, clear milestones and regular communications.
8. Build in time to review your partnership, both to celebrate success and understand / overcome challenges.