

Strengthening Collaboration with CHYPP

The organisation

The Children and Young People's Partnership (CHYPP) is a collaboration of like-minded organisations working towards the following vision of a participative future:

- That all children and young people are given opportunity and assistance, where required, to participate meaningfully in decision making that affects them, as individuals and collectively.
- That all organisations, agencies and services that affect children and young people have structures and systems in place to support the fullest implementation of children and young people's participation rights within the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The need

CHYPP had developed an internet gateway, www.participationworks.org.uk (PW), bringing together in one e-location all the materials that each partner has on participation, plus that available through other e-sources. CHYPP had secured a new phase of funding and wanted to review its structure and ways of working to provide solid foundations from which a new wave of development could begin.

What we did

Jacqueline worked with the CHYPP partners to develop a workshop to provide the partnership with a springboard for the next stage in its development:

- Partners reviewed the benefits of the partnership, their experiences of team working, and developed an agreed view of the things they would like to stop, start and continue, as a basis for working together in the future
- The partners gave short presentations on their organisations, services and products to provide the input for a subsequent session on clarifying the distinctions/complementarities of each
- Participants also engaged in a relationship-building exercise that enabled members from each organisation to identify and discuss their expectations of each other and to build on the learning from working together in the previous three years
- Small sub-groups worked together on key issues and action planning
- The workshop ended with agreements on next steps and a communications plan.

Benefits

Participants gained:

- An agreement on the aims and objectives of CHYPP
- A better understanding of one another's products and work and how they fit together as a package of support to organisations more widely
- Greater clarity about each organisation's contribution (to CHYPP) and increased commitment
- Greater clarity about the relationships between the partnership members
- A plan and commitment for actions in the coming months
- Good foundations from which to develop deeper working relationships and greater team ethic to aid future collaboration, and to enable partners to feel able and confident to actively participate on an equitable basis.

Comments from CHYPP

“We made very significant demands of J Hill Associates and they more than stood up to the challenge taking us through our watershed to a new and more strongly rooted partnership.”

Barbara Hearn, Deputy Chief Executive, National Children's Bureau, and CHYPP Partner