

NESTA Impact Partnerships webinar

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There is a growing consensus that to tackle the most pressing issues we need to use the unique resources, skill sets and power of multiple sectors.

Impact partnerships unlock a significant untapped pool of resources for social and environmental good. They bring together the commitment, resources and expertise from across different sectors to tackle tough social challenges more effectively.

When do we use it?

			
To tackle entrenched problems that aren't getting fixed	Where we find existing solutions that are not fulfilling their potential	Where there are disparate and conflicting efforts	Where there is a high level of uncertainty and organisations are struggling to act alone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Youth unemploymentHomelessnessFinancial exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lack of expertiseLack of fundingCompetition for resourcesLack of momentumLittle action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dilution of fundingTalent not working togetherInefficient duplicationUnhealthy competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Often disparate understanding of the problemsOften no clear solution/new solutions neededMultiple causes and dependenciesSocially complex and unstable contexts

How do you do it?

			
Discovery and design	Engage and establish	Deliver and implement	Amplify and Learn
Rapid research the problem, drawing on existing expertise	Curate the right ecosystem around the problem, including business, civil society, government and innovators	Identify and activate high potential, multi-sector partnerships within the ecosystem	Amplify the best solutions and opportunities. Learn and share what works
Define the key challenges through:	Bring in those best equipped to drive scale through:	Realise scale and new solutions through:	Create a platform for project legacy through:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">WorkshopsActivitiesMapping the systemUnderstanding what works	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Building a leadership groupHaving clear goals, targets and learning processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Structured. Time bound partnershipsShared learning and iterationClear measurements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Event and activitiesLearning reports and activitiesCelebrating success
----- Time- Bound - Clear Commitment - High Impact -----			

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Doing the discovery work together is really important.

Mindset is really important to the process: being open, reflective and learning, solution-focussed not process-focussed, outcome focused: keep an eye on the mission. It requires self-awareness and awareness of others and building trust is very important.

Interesting exercise: take some time to work through one of the below tables for a project already underway or a new project idea and then talk with others about this to identify new partners, assets and motivations.

Challenge or Problem: Project already underway		
<p>Who is around the table?</p> <p>ie Local homeless charity</p> <p>Who else could/should be around the table?</p> <p>ie Small businesses</p>	<p>What assets do they bring?</p> <p>ie Good local knowledge A CEO who is very influential in the community</p>	<p>What is their individual motivation?</p> <p>ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They want to have access to other funders • They are keen to have a bigger impact than they can have on their own • They want to influence local policy
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Challenge or Problem: New project idea		
<p>Who could be around the table?</p> <p>ie Local homeless charity</p> <p>What "unusual suspects" could be around the table?</p> <p>ie Small businesses</p> <p>I don't know but I could ask.....</p>	<p>What assets might they bring?</p> <p>ie Good local knowledge A CEO who is very influential in the community</p>	<p>What might their individual motivation be?</p> <p>ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They want to have access to other funders • They are keen to have a bigger impact than they can have on their own • They want to influence local policy
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Full presentation at https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Y7rkiA4HnymuDmlrNvuNEgrXCauE89muQhCmdWCJB4/edit#slide=id.g96aa75e8c8_0_21.

More information about impact partnerships at <https://www.nesta.org.uk/feature/innovation-methods/impact-partnerships/>