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## Partnership Working Policy

### Introduction

Foresight North East Lincolnshire Ltd has a genuine commitment to partnership working and is involved in a number of partnerships (locally, and regional) based on the belief that effective partnerships will improve the quality of life of our service users as well as assisting in providing high quality, value for money services. In addition, effective partnership working is detailed as a key Government priority – providing genuine partnerships with the people we serve - (White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities).

### Purpose

This policy provides the organisations vision and scope for partnership working together with an approved definition of an approved partnership. This policy does not apply to the organisations relationship with services, third party service providers or the wide range of organisations with which the organisation has informal working relations as part of its operational activities.

### Vision

‘To ensure we manage relationships with our partners in an efficient and effective way and that any partnerships we are involved in are action and outcome focused, encourage innovative solutions for change and where progress is reported regularly and measured effectively’.

### Aims

Foresight will establish formal partnerships, working at both strategic and operational level, where there are clear opportunities to achieve some or all of its corporate priorities.

### Definitions

#### Partnership Working

The organisation defines a partnership as a formal working arrangement involving one or more independent bodies, from any sector, who share responsibility for agreeing and/or then delivering a set of

planned actions and outcomes. A formal agreement is made by all partners to work together for specific outcomes.

In summary all partnerships will agree:-

- A shared strategic vision/objectives
- Resource availability/requirements
- Clear measurable outcomes
- Added value
- Risks
- Timescales for review or life of partnership

Partners should:

- Be independent bodies working willingly in collaboration with each other.
- Agree to co-operate and commit resources to achieve a common goal/s.
- Create a process by which to work together, to develop and implement and monitor a joint programme of work.
- Be prepared to share relevant information, risks and rewards.
- Recognise the statutory obligations of the organisation and its discretionary functions
- Be prepared to accept decisions made by the partnership within the agreed parameters

Entering into a new or existing partnership

The organisation will determine the suitability for entering into a formal partnership against the following criteria:

- How the work of the partnership contributes to the organisation's Corporate Strategy and Priorities.
- How the work of the partnership benefits service users, residents, businesses and visitors to the area.
- Will the partnership commit itself to Foresight's aims and objectives
- Are there arrangements in place to regularly monitor and report on the effectiveness of the partnership?
- Is there clarity on roles of appointed persons, reasons why they are on that partnership and what their remit is?

Foresight will go through a clear decision making process before committing itself to a partnership. Depending on the type of partnership proposed and commitment in respect of resources and time there are a number of routes that approval for entering into a partnership can take.

To reinforce the commitment all new and existing partnership will have a 'Statement of Commitment' signed by the Lead Officer from each organisation involved in the Partnership.

In respect of Foresight North East Lincolnshire Ltd, the statement will be counter-signed by the Chief Officer and/or the Chair of the organisation (if applicable).

*This information is also available in other formats, languages and picture format upon request.*