

Practical approaches to working in partnership

Practical examples of partnerships with adult social care providers

Beyond partnerships with healthcare, there is a wide range of other partners for adult social care providers to work together with.

The examples below are drawn from Skills for Care's recent discussions with providers about who they are partnering with and how this helps. These examples showcase some of the very practical ways you can connect with local and national partners, often creating mutual benefits for both services and the people and communities you support.

It is not intended as a definitive list but to prompt frontline managers and others to consider how your service and people could benefit from different partnerships. This resource complements the [Working with partners self-assessment](#) and our [webinar](#)

Pastoral services and religious groups	Arrangements between a residential home and a church to allow the church to use the service's car park at weekends developed into a partnership where the pastor supports the spiritual needs of those receiving care.
JobCentre Plus	A residential home partnered with their local JobCentre Plus to develop a recruitment programme that includes work experience, training, and direct referrals. The JobCentre Plus took a values-based approach to candidate selection, and the staff recruited through this route have seen a high rate of retention.
Community groups	A residential home provided a local mother and toddler group a place to hold their play sessions, giving service users an opportunity to watch the babies and toddlers at play.
Local charities	A residential home had a chosen charity decided on by service users, a local hospice. As well as holding an event to raise money for the hospice, visits for staff and service users to visit the hospice were arranged, which helped develop the skills of staff and improve care in the service.
National charities	A homecare provider invited a national charity to their co-production

Rotary Club / Chamber of Commerce	Partnership working with this type of organisation has helped connect care providers with new staff when there have been changes in local businesses (e.g., shops or factories closing down etc.)
Local shops	A homecare provider worked with local shop keepers to develop a 'safety in town' campaign and provide safe places and assistance for those feeling vulnerable.
Hotels	Established relationships with local hotels have helped homecare providers continue to provide care where bad weather or other restrictions may have blocked access to the area.
Leisure facility	Working closely with leisure facilities, care providers have secured dedicated times for their clients to use the gyms and swimming pools, including special arrangements for support staff to accompany the people they support.
Local sporting groups, teams and gyms	A residential home arranged for its service users to regularly attend the gym at the local prison, facilitated by a prison instructor, staff from the service and people who had committed minor offences. This was well received by the residents, offering them the opportunity to benefit their wellbeing and confidence through exercise, and allowed offenders the opportunity to learn about people with differing abilities and to make a positive difference for other people.
Activity providers	<p>A homecare provider sponsors a local circus company that provides special adjusted performances to be suitable for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people.</p> <p>People who need care and support can attend a free performance and are encouraged to perform and take part in shows including music, pampering and facepainting.</p>
Learning providers	Close partnership working with learning providers has often helped providers to identify and recruit new staff, including sourcing apprentices.

Further information and advice about Practical approaches to working in partnership is available from

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/COVID-19webinars