

Q&A – Learning Partner Call for Proposals

1. The learning events facilitated so far have been virtual. Is this your preference for future networks or would you be interested in in-person forums too?

We recommend that the network meetings be virtual to improve attendance and encourage engagement. We're open to discussing in-person events if this feels appropriate for the partnerships and partners.

2. Thinking about the work undertaken with Renaisi so far, is there any other learning that we should be aware of that could help make sure that we build on what has been achieved so far and what has worked and what hasn't worked?

This role is an evolution of the Learning Partner role so we've built on the foundations that Renaisi have developed and diverted the role away from bespoke support directly with the partnership so its difficult to compare and contrast. The outputs and networks have been successful and well received by stakeholders, and Renaisi's final report will be due in the next two weeks which has identified some key learning about Connected Futures.

Are organisations who are also evaluating any of the other Connected Futures strands/programmes able to be the learning partner – or would you rather keep the learning partner function separate?

Organisations that are Action Research or Evaluation partners can propose for the Learning Partner, we would just expect to hear about how they can remain objective and how any conflicts of interest would be managed.

There is a risk that it could impact the decision to appoint if the interview panel feel that a partnership would have an unfair advantage over others but again, if this is presented in the proposal and interview and managed effectively, this risk is reduced.

How much engagement can we as the learning partner on Connected Futures have with existing youth boards/groups already convened by the Youth Futures Foundation such as the youth steering group and the Future Voices Group? How much will we facilitate this vs the YFF?

These groups are run and facilitated by Youth Futures but we do expect the Learning Partner to have an active role with the Youth Steering Group. This will play a supportive role, with some facilitation depending on the activity. Activities are decided by the young people so it would be a collaboration with them and Youth Futures on designing activities and outputs for you to facilitate. This group generally meets every other month but the frequency is flexible.



To what extent do you expect the learning partnership outputs to be focused on supporting future funding for local partnerships or the Connected Futures programme? There is reference to gaining 'stakeholder investment' in the call for proposals and we wanted to clarify if this is likely to cover financial as well as non-financial investment?

Apologies for any confusion, we anticipate the investment to be mostly non-financial, and more focused on building up the community of support for Youth Futures vision and mission. For local partnerships it will be growing their partnership and generating interest to enable change in their place.

Can we append a detailed project plan diagram to the 12 pages or does this need to be included in the total 12?

A detailed project plan can be appended as this is not a requirement. We suggest you include a high level project plan in the 12 pages as stated in the quality criteria.

Can you please clarify who the Action Research/Evaluation partner organisations are and which areas are still to have these partners appointed?

Unfortunately we cannot announce the organisation names due to agreements not being signed but most partnerships now have Action Research/Evaluation partners appointed.

Who is the strategic partner for the programme? How will our work intersect with their work, specifically in relation to building capacity and capability for systems change initiatives?

Unfortunately we cannot announce the organisation's name due to agreements not being signed. The Strategic partner will be working with the two or three experience led partnerships, building their infrastructure capacity. These partnerships will receive support from their Evaluation partners to build their research & evaluation capacity and capabilities for systems change initiatives. We imagine the main intersection between the Learning Partner and Strategic Partner is creating outputs and less on building capacity with the local partnerships.

How much in person vs virtual engagement do you expect when engaging with the partnership areas?

As virtual engagement is more cost effective, we recommend this make up the majority of engagement with the partnership areas. However, in-person engagement can enable richer relationships so suggest offering this as an opportunity, perhaps at the beginning.