

# Open Research Online

---

The Open University's repository of research publications and other research outputs

## Effective partnerships between voluntary organizations for carers and academia in social care in an era of public spending cuts

### Conference or Workshop Item

How to cite:

Larkin, Mary (2010). Effective partnerships between voluntary organizations for carers and academia in social care in an era of public spending cuts. In: 5th International Carers UK Conference, New frontiers in caring, 2010 and beyond, Jul 2010, Leeds.

For guidance on citations see [FAQs](#).

© [\[not recorded\]](#)

Version: Version of Record

---

Copyright and Moral Rights for the articles on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. For more information on Open Research Online's data [policy](#) on reuse of materials please consult the policies page.

---

[oro.open.ac.uk](http://oro.open.ac.uk)

# 'EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR CARERS AND ACADEMIA IN AN ERA OF PUBLIC SPENDING CUTS'.

Julia Tabreman, Chief Executive Carers Federation  
Dr Mary Larkin, Principal Lecturer, De Montfort University

# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- scene -setting
- benefits of partnerships between voluntary organisations for carers and academia for universities
- benefits of partnerships between voluntary organisations for carers and academia for voluntary organisations for carers
- a proposed model to fully realise the potential of the relationship between voluntary organisations for carers and academia in order to deliver the best outcomes to the greatest number of people in an era of dramatic public spending cuts

# THE CONTEXT

- *Definition of a partnership here - equal and two-way relationship? Can you help Emma?*
- the drive to establish partnerships with voluntary sector is longstanding
- there are now several well-established links between many voluntary organisations and various Universities throughout the United Kingdom



# BENEFITS FOR UNIVERSITIES

- consultation before and during a study to verify applicability of a study to 'real life'
- share knowledge about funding bodies
- establish users and beneficiaries of any proposed and the value of the research to them
- exploration of any synergies with research priorities within the voluntary sector
- access to samples
- access to voluntary sector network
- maximise user involvement
- identification of stakeholders
- sharing of resources (especially staff)
- joint publications



# BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR CARERS

- joint publications to raise profile
- access to expertise about research methodology
- access to expertise about relevant literature
- policy development
- sharing of resources (especially staff)

*(these are just some ideas – do you want to finish this slide Emma )*

# THE FUTURE?

- less money for research?
- even harder to be successful with research bids!
- less staff time for research?
- anticipated cuts in public services will cause more problems for service users and carers?





# QUESTION

How, in the face of the impending cutbacks in public spending, can the potential of the relationship between voluntary organisations for carers and academia be fully realised in order to deliver the best outcomes to the greatest number of people?



# A MODEL FOR COLLABORATION

Emma - can you do a pictorial representation of the model here, using the 3 headings in the next 3 slides?



# 1. Beginnings

- establish a relationship with named contact in each carers organisation /university
- invest time in understanding each others aims, knowledge base, expertise, skills, concerns, training needs, other contacts, priorities etc
- set up a database with this information
- written record of your agreement about the ways in which you will collaborate



## 2. Making it work

- regular discussions between contacts to share ideas, sources of funding, possible training courses, useful conferences
- regularly review needs and priorities and reprioritise in the light of policy developments if necessary
- take it in turns to attend conferences (to cut costs) and feedback
- keep travel costs to minimum
- establish an accessible pool of all bids (successful and unsuccessful)
- learn from others in similar collaborative relationships

# 3. Preparing bids

- exploit each others skills and expertise to the full!
- consult those with relevant expertise in each other's organisations and in other known organisation
- ensure your bid has the optimum impact in terms of its beneficiaries
- maximize the cost-effectiveness of your bid
- establish a clear division of labour but be prepared to be flexible



# 4. After the bid!

- if successful, publish joint findings as widely as possible, highlighting collaboration that has taken place to produce them
- disseminate experiences of working collaboratively in publications and at conferences
- refine model as necessary

