



Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface

Collaborations and Mergers

There are many reasons why voluntary organisations decide to work together. It could be to achieve a similar aim, jointly working on a specific campaign, or to save costs.

Different methods of collaboration

Here are some of the main ways in which voluntary organisations can work together:

- separate organisations working together on activities or functions
- organisations with expertise or resources offering help to other organisations
- new organisation created to carry out joint work on activities or functions
- group structure, parent organisation governs subsidiary organisations
- merger into a completely new organisation

You need to be aware of the potential advantages and risks associated with working with another organisation before you take any decisions. Each organisation should undertake their own risk assessment and seek professional advice before entering into an agreement with another. Outlined below are some of the issues to take into consideration:

Potential advantages:

- reduced costs for both organisations
- improved services, avoids duplication
- strength in numbers
- access to new and/or increased service users
- shared risk
- shared knowledge

Potential risks:

- damage to your reputation
- confusing to users and other stakeholders
- wasted time and resources
- liability, if things go wrong
- decision making becomes more complicated
- resistance to change

Published on the Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Self-Serve system (www.argylltsi.org.uk)
(Adapted from SCVO)

Version: 1.0

Published: May 2020

Review date: July 2021

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface | 01369 700100 | support@argylltsi.org.uk

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface is a Company Limited by Guarantee in Scotland No. SC277345
Scottish Charity No. SC029947

Registered office: c/o Edward Street Community Centre, Edward Street, Dunoon PA23 7PJ