

CRF Partnership Guidance – Frequently Asked Questions

Partnerships are a key part of this fund. We encourage you to be ambitious, work together, and use this opportunity to strengthen local networks and build resilience across communities. Focus on how your partnership will add value, not just combine activity.

Q. Do we need to already be a formal partnership?

A. No. Partnerships can be new or existing. This fund is a great opportunity to develop local networks and relationships.

We encourage you to think about:

- Who is already working in your area or with your community
- How you can build on existing connections rather than duplicate provision

If you're unsure, please feel free to speak with one of the delivery partners. Less formal collaborations between groups can also be supported, but we ask that you carefully consider what needs to be in place to ensure a financially sound and accountable approach to managing the funding.

We encourage you to seek advice from VAL or other organisations you trust if this is not an area you have experience in

Q. Can we share personal data between partners?

A. Yes, but this must be done safely and legally.

If you plan to share personal data, you'll need a data sharing agreement in place between all partners. This should clearly set out:

- What information is shared
- Why it is shared



- How it will be stored securely

You can use existing third sector templates to support this. Again, we can support with this, please do get in touch.

Q. Who receives the funding?

A. One organisation must act as the lead partner.

They will:

- Receive the funding
- Distribute agreed amounts to partners
- Act as the main point of contact

It is important that all partners are clear on roles, responsibilities, and funding allocations from the start. Sharing money, resources, and responsibility in a partnership can be complicated and can lead to points of conflict between and within organisations. If this is something new to you, seek advice from VAL or Forum Central.

Q. Who supports the partnership once funded?

A. You will be allocated a grant manager from one of the delivery partners (VAL / LKAN, Forum Central, Leeds Older People's Forum or Leeds Food Aid Network).

They will:

- Be your main contact



- Support all members of the partnership
- Help with any questions or challenges

Q. Is there any funding for partnerships?

A. Yes. We hope to offer a small amount (maximum £5,000 for a 12-month grant and maximum £3,000 for a 7-month grant) to support partnership development, local coordination and collaborative working. The amount awarded is linked to the size and complexity of the collaboration. This amount will need to be factored into your budget upon application.

Q. How does monitoring work in a partnership?

A. Each organisation will complete their own monitoring.

If multiple partners support the same individual:

- You can each include that person in your numbers
- This reflects the different support provided by each organisation

We recognise it is not always practical to track and match individuals across organisations.

Q. Can schools be part of a partnership?

A. The fund is not open to schools as direct applicants.

However, schools can be involved as part of a partnership (for example, hosting a food pantry or supporting families), as long as:

- The funding is used as agreed



- Financial arrangements are clear and transparent

Some schools choose to set up a separate constituted group and bank account to manage funding. Support is available from VAL if needed.

Q. How do we define our partnership area?

Q. You can define your partnership based on:

- A geographic area (e.g. an LCAN area)
- A community of interest

There is flexibility, but clarity is important.

Q. What makes a strong partnership application?

A. Strong partnerships:

- Bring together different strengths and expertise
- Offer a more joined-up, wrap-around approach
- Show how working together will build financial resilience

For example, one organisation may provide food, another advice, another cooking lessons and another skills or confidence support.

Q. Can we be named in more than one partnership?

A. Yes. While we would expect this to happen only occasionally, we recognise that some organisations may play a role in more than one partnership or collaboration.

If your organisation is named as either a lead applicant or partner in more than one application, you must clearly declare this within each application and ensure all partners involved are aware. Applicants should also explain the distinct role they will play within each partnership and demonstrate that any funding requested is for separate and clearly defined activity.

This helps ensure transparency, avoid duplication, and enable the grant panel to make informed decisions.

