

**Sheffield
Hallam
University**

**Supporting collaborative learning
and working in practice**



Introduction

First of all thank you! Your support of learning in the workplace is vital to our students and we are really proud to work in partnership with you.

This guide has been produced to help you to facilitate effective collaborative learning opportunities in your work place. It contains some key principles, ideas to help you and suggestions of where to go for further help.

At Sheffield Hallam University we have created 11 new distinct curricula that actively promote learning with, from and about different professions and agencies. We are the leading education provider working in this way in the UK. Together we are developing highly skilled professions who can work, learn and develop to provide services in more integrated ways.

Our courses value each profession equally, we can see the similarities and uniqueness of each profession with the shared goals of making a positive contribution to the lives of individuals, families, community and wider society.

We have designed our courses together to:

- Help students develop personally and professionally in readiness for their career: encouraging student self-awareness to support wellbeing, enabling students to advocate for themselves and in turn others, and to remain buoyant throughout their careers.
- Help students to learn how to collaborate and co-produce services in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the service user, communities and society.
- Help students to understand the wider context of the organisations and systems they provide services within so they can shape and contribute to managing resources.

Our students, like you, are passionate about their profession. A great way to learn how to collaborate is in practice, where learning is authentic.



Our guidance

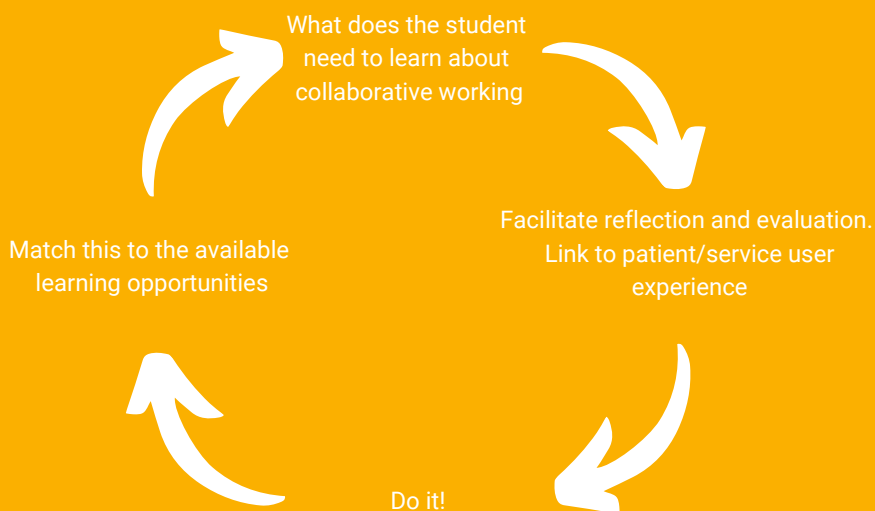
The fundamental aim we have developed together is that students need to learn to work effectively with the whole team to co-produce services, with the public.

What do students need to learn?

- To learn about the ways in which you work with other professions, services and agencies to benefit the patient or service user.
- To demonstrate that they understand the roles, approaches, role boundaries of other professions.
- To identify how to achieve effective collaborative working, negotiating, advocating and leading to make a difference.
- To evaluate the impact of collaboration on the patient or service user experience and across the services and systems they work and learn in.
- To always be able to ask patient/services users... 'What matters to you?'
- To develop their personal capacity to work across boundaries and remain buoyant. To seek advice, support and recognise where systems and processes can be enhanced.

When students join your team, think...

- Who are the people and agencies in your area of work that the patients or service users interact with?
- What are the opportunities to work with and learn from these people (or with other students)?
- How can you make this happen?



Further guidance

When taking time to challenge their thinking, facilitate reflection, here are a few useful prompts...

- What have they learned about themselves?
- What has the student learnt about other professions?
- What more do they need to know?
- What helps or hinders collaborative working?
- What has the student learnt about collaborating with other professionals?
- What has the student learnt about how other professionals contribute to patient/service user outcomes?
- What have they learned about the wider context of work?

You might like to think about...

- Developing a resource for students to access. It may include contact details of team members and other agencies, examples of learning opportunities and links to key documents.
- Ask students about how they are learning on their course.
- Encourage students from different professions to link with each other.
- Facilitate student discussions on service user journeys and experiences.
- Identify co-working opportunities by liaising with colleagues.
- Continue to be a positive role model when working with other professionals and promote a positive approach to collaborative working.
- Capture teachable moments that illustrate effective collaborative working, you work in ways that need 'un-picking' for learners and encourage reflection.
- Celebrate how you learn and work with others and how this enhances your own professional development.

Thank you!

