

**Proposal 1**  
from the  
**Joint Ownership/Mutual Responsibility Workgroup**  
October 21, 2008

**Definition of Joint Ownership**

The SUN Service System is a unique framework and model of commitment that requires partners to work intensely together for mutual responsibility.

***Joint Ownership and Mutual responsibility*** for a partnership denotes a highly developed and sophisticated level of commitment, often referred to as “collaboration.” Different levels of commitment can be described in terms of a hierarchy, with collaboration being the highest (deepest) level, as follows:

<b>HIGH COMMITMENT – HIGH RETURNS</b>
<p><b>Collaboration</b> – involves a process in which organizations exchange information, alter activities, share resources (including financial resources), and enhance each others capacity for mutual benefit and a common purpose by sharing risks, responsibilities and rewards. There is a <b>commitment</b> to sharing mission, values, strategies and funding.</p> <p><b><i>This is the level of commitment where mutual responsibility is understood and joint ownership is demonstrated.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Coordination</b> – involves commitment to common objectives through working together, altering activities and sharing information and resources.</p>
<p><b>Cooperation</b> – involves sharing/networking information for mutual benefit or to improve service delivery.</p>
<b>LOW COMMITMENT – LOWER RETURNS</b>

*Adapted from Fylde Borough (United Kingdom) Council “Partnership Working Policy”*