

Proposal 1
from the
Mutual Responsibility Workgroup
October 21, 2008

Definition

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

Mutual responsibility for (or *joint ownership* of) 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:

HIGH COMMITMENT – HIGH RETURNS
Collaboration – 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 <i>commitment</i> to sharing mission, values, strategies and funding. <i>This is the level of commitment where mutual responsibility is understood and joint ownership is demonstrated.</i>
Coordination – involves commitment to common objectives through working together, altering activities and sharing information and resources.
Cooperation – involves sharing/networking information for mutual benefit or to improve service delivery.
LOW COMMITMENT – LOWER RETURNS

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