

Partnership Policy

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 General

Localise exists to enable young people from marginalised areas and backgrounds to contribute to their communities through growing in understanding their abilities, working with community based partners to address community issues. Young people working with Localise through community groups and schools are supported to develop life skills and the realisation that they are of benefit to their communities through their direct involvement with community groups. This process provides marginalised young people with growth, maturity and determination regarding their own personal development and the ability to make a contribution through work and volunteering throughout their lives.

Localise acknowledges that success should not be measured according to the strength of its partnerships, but rather on the effect the work of those partnerships is having on the lives of people living in marginalised circumstances.

1.2 Localise’s Definition of Partnership

Partnership involves a shared vision and a commitment to work together to bring real and sustainable benefits to the marginalized and their communities. It requires a long term commitment, clearly defined expectations and shared responsibility for achievements and duties. It values the unique contribution and strengths of all partners and is based on partners working in an open, accountable and transparent manner.

Localise partnership policy will be implemented through;

- Working closely with partners in communities, schools and regional networks.
- Working with these partners to address the key priority themes to enable marginalised young people to address community needs and grow in the process.
- Building relationships with the wider constituency in the target communities.
- Working as a partner with funders.

Localise values all its partners and it recognises the need for all these partners to work together in order to address the numerous challenges faced by its target communities.

The relationship between Localise and its existing and future partners is at the heart of its work and it is these relationships which must be nurtured and managed if Localise’s contribution and work is to be sustainable.

Localise acknowledges that success should not be measured only according to the strength of its partnerships, but rather on the effect the work of those partnerships is having on the lives of marginalised people.

1.3 Aims and Objectives of this Policy

The overall aim of this policy is to build a common understanding between Localise and its partners regarding Localise's approach to its goals and the central role of partnerships in this work.

2.0 Partnership Values and Principles

*Localise's **Partnership Approach** is based on accountability and open communication between partners.*

2.1 Values

Localise's values are based on the following:

- Sharing Equality of opportunity
- Justice
- Trust
- Accountability
- Respect
- Open Communication
- Enabling a balance of rights and responsibilities throughout society
- Working through a Volunteer Centred approach

2.2 Key Principles of the Localise Partnership Approach

The key principles of the Localise Partnership Approach are:

- Working with and through partners to enable the most marginalised in our society to grow and contribute to their own communities
- Partners work together for the interests of the community and the volunteers
- Volunteers are at the centre of Localise's work in all situations

3.0 The Localise Approach

Localise's work with its key partners recognizes the overlap and commonality between the process of enabling young marginalised people to grow and contribute to the communities and the core elements of an effective partnership approach.

3.1 The Partners

In order to achieve its aims Localise works with a range of different organizations from activist community groups, community service providers, schools and commercial enterprises. Building and maintaining relationships across this spectrum is a core element of its work. Localise values all these partners and continues to develop new relationships at all levels and where feasible to deepen the relationship with current partners.

4.0 Partnership Formalisation

The process of establishing and formalising a partnership is a two stage process

1. Negotiating a Partnership Agreement
2. Finalising a Project Agreement

Localise has usually begun a partnership by focussing on a project, working closely with one partner on one activity. The process has evolved and now Localise works towards a broad approach with its partners.

The process of negotiating and agreeing a Partnership Agreement establishes a clear marker for the working of the partnership. This involves Localise and the partner exploring all elements of the work and the proposed partnership.

The process of negotiating the formal Partnership Agreement is carried out directly between key personnel in Localise and key personnel in the partner organisation.

The **Partnership Agreement** establishes the Partnership and the agreement to work together. It defines the terms of working together and outlines the values of each organisation.

The **Project Agreement** document forms the basis of a working programme. It defines the project or programme that the partnership will work on. It defines the roles and duties of each partner within the programme or project agreed. It gives details of the agreed budget for the activities, details the activities and describes the benchmarks and indicators to be used to monitor the intervention. This agreement defines the roles of young people as well as adult volunteers. This document provides the basis for ongoing monitoring of the activities the partnership supports and acts as a key management tool both for the partner and for Localise.

5.0 Policy Implementation

5.1 Board of Management

The Board of Management of Localise has discussed, amended and approved this policy. The formulation and adoption of this policy has arisen from the Board's Governance focus, ensuring the Board works in a transparent and efficient manner, overseeing the work of Localise and ensuring it complies with this and other policies.

The Board is closely involved with the quality of Localise's programme, and oversees all its partnerships.

The Board receives regular updates from staff on the progress of Localise's partnerships, as well as on the progress of the development interventions the partners implement. The policy will be reviewed as necessary by the Board, but no later than five years after its adoption.

5.2 Staff

Localise staff interface directly with Localise's partners. The staff are charged with the day to day management of the relationships between Localise and its partners. Localise staff were closely involved with the development of this policy.

Localise staff advise the Board on any risks involved in current partnerships. They also advise on changing situations and possible impacts on the partnerships and the work of the partners. This is a key role as to the quality of the programme and is recognised as such by both the staff and the Board.

5.3 Partners

Localise's partners have also adopted the policy as part of their relationship with Localise, and as agreed in all partnership agreements implemented after January 2020. Localise's experience of partnership has informed the development of this policy.

Localise's partnerships are based on a number of values and principles including, trust, accountability and respect for the other partner. Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the agreements between Localise and the partners is the responsibility of Localise and the partner.