

Partnership Policy

Date: March 2025

Review Date: March 2028

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Policy Information	
Policy Title	<i>Partnership Policy</i>
Policy Number	<i>POL023</i>
Version	<i>Version 5 (March 2025)</i>
Policy Sponsor	<i>The Chief Executive</i>
Policy Owner	<i>The Director of Library Services</i>
Committee and Date Recommended for Approval	<i>Services Committee, 20 March 2025</i>
Date Approved by the Board	<i>17 April 2025</i>
Equality Screening Status	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Screened: 12 December 2013 2. Reviewed: 26 April 2016 3. Reviewed: 11 March 2019 4. Reviewed: 24 February 2022 5. Reviewed: 16 April 2025
Rural Needs Impact Assessment Status	<i>Assessed: 4 March 2019</i> <i>Reviewed: 24 February 2022</i> <i>Reviewed: 16 April 2025</i>
Date Set For Review	<i>March 2025</i>
Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Service Policies and Strategies</i> • <i>Filming Policy</i> • <i>Media Handling Policy</i> • <i>Room Hire Policy</i> • <i>Safeguarding Policy</i> • <i>Safe and Welcoming Libraries Policy</i> • <i>Social Media Policy</i>

Partnership Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Libraries NI's duty is to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service for people living, working or studying in Northern Ireland.
- 1.2 Libraries NI is committed to partnership working. Working collaboratively with partners can help achieve corporate outcomes, deliver strategic actions and develop libraries as access points for a wide range of services. Partners can bring a range of skills, additional resources and enable Libraries NI to connect with new audiences while promoting awareness and benefits of using library services.
- 1.3 Libraries NI recognises that partnership work may involve membership of formally constituted groups such as Community Planning Partnerships as well as direct engagement with one or more other organisations in order to deliver mutually beneficial agreed objectives.
- 1.4 Libraries NI also recognises that the potential for partnership work far exceeds organisational capacity and that this can be a resource intensive way of working that requires careful management.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of the policy is to ensure that partnership work is carried out in a way that maximises the benefits for library users and services.

3. Policy

- 3.1 Libraries NI will develop formal/informal partnerships which:
 - increase library membership, lending, accessing resources and participation in services and programmes
 - promote reading and literacy
 - enable existing services to be developed, improved or extended
 - enable new services to be developed
 - enable Libraries NI to increase the range and demographic of customers and services
 - enable services to be delivered more efficiently
 - raise the profile of Libraries NI
 - enable Libraries NI to demonstrate its contribution to departmental, community planning and government priorities
 - enable Libraries NI to achieve its organisational objectives
 - help ensure sustainability of library services and of the library network.
- 3.2 Libraries NI recognises that partnerships operate at many different levels. However, a number of principles apply to all partnerships.

3.3 Libraries NI will:

- be proactive and selective in the development of partnerships
- manage its partnership work, based on best practice guidance
- document its partnerships appropriately
- keep its partnerships under review
- consider the potential for partnership working when business planning and developing policy and strategy

3.4 Libraries NI will not facilitate formal/informal partnerships/partnership working:

- where the partnership might impact on the library as a welcoming, safe and trusted space
- where the proposed partnership may adversely impact on library facilities, spaces and/or services
- where there is not a synergy with the delivery of a comprehensive library service.

4. Authority

Policy Sponsor: The Chief Executive is the Policy Sponsor.

Policy Owner: The Director of Library Services is the Policy Owner.

Policy Contact: The Director of Library Services is the Policy Contact.

5. Related Documents

Policies

- Service Policies and Strategies
- Filming Policy
- Media Handling Policy
- Room Hire Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Safe and Welcoming Libraries Policy
- Social Media Policy