



National Development Team for Inclusion

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Frequently Asked Questions: Partners Make Time to Talk

Introduction

NDTi is seeking partners for a new programme, Partners Make Time to Talk. This builds on the evidence and learning from our successful delivery of [Time to Talk](#) and [Time to Talk Next Steps](#). We will provide a bespoke package of support to 9 partners England enabling them to increase work on raising aspirations, alleviating isolation, and building the confidence of young people (aged 16-25 years) with additional needs and their parents/carers.

In early 2024 we worked with young people to run 2 open information sessions for organisations from across England to find out more about our plans. 117 organisations attended and 34 expressed interest in working with us as partners on Partners Make Time to Talk if NDTi is successful in sourcing funding.

This paper is for all those interested in working with us on this exciting programme for young people with additional support needs.

Delivery and Ownership of the Programme

Who will deliver Time to Talk Next Steps to young people and family members?

Partners will be responsible for delivering support to young people and their parent/carers. They will be provided with support, mentoring and training from NDTi to do so.

Will NDTi manage and own the project that we deliver?

No, each partner's project to provide support to young people will be managed by them and come under their organisations governance, policies and procedures. It will be informed by learning from the partnership with NDTi and other partners in the wider programme (Partners Make Time to Talk).

NDTi will be responsible for management and delivery of the wider programme and for collection of evaluation and learning.

Partners will be asked to publicise their partnership agreement with us and where appropriate, to credit our work.

We already have a name; do we have to call it Time to Talk Next Steps?

Each partner will decide on the name for their project. This will be in response to the people they involve in co-production at the start of the programme.

Partnership Structure and Expectations

Does it have to be a completely new project for partners?

No, it can be an extension of work that the partner is already delivering.

How does co-production fit into this programme?

Partners will be supported to coproduce their programme with young people, family members and other stakeholders in their area and expected to involve beneficiaries in their delivery.

Would partner delivery rely on training up existing staff?

We envisage that for most partners this work will enhance existing work. In this case, existing staff will benefit from the training and peer learning provided by NDTi through the programme.

If a partner is starting a new project to deliver support to young people in their area NDTi will provide training, information and support based upon our experience e.g. recruitment, essential criteria and staff selection.

What is the cost for organisations who become partners?

There will be no fee for the package of support provided to partners by NDTi throughout the 3 years of the project. The partnership agreement with NDTi will require each partner to provide assurance that they can meet targets and sustain involvement in the partnership throughout the 3 years of the programme.

Before selection NDTi will provide organisations with a breakdown of the minimum amount of time required to

- take up training and the core package of support (see below)
- coproduce the evaluation framework
- coproduce the model for provision
- set up and manage infrastructure (e.g. partnerships in the local area, publicity, recruitment of staff if required, safeguarding procedures and GDPR etc)
- deliver support to a minimum of 70 young people over 3 years

- engage with and contribute to the Partners Make Time to Talk wider partnership and take part in peer learning and collection of evaluation data

Organizations will use this information to develop their own costings. Those with sufficient resource to meet expectations will start work with NDTi in Year 1. It is possible that up to 4 partners which are committed to join the programme but need to fundraise will be given the opportunity to do so in year 2. NDTi will provide some fundraising support throughout the programme.

What is in the core offer of support from NDTi?

Partners will receive a package of support including:

- training by young people with lived experience of disability,
- practical tools for virtual and in-person engagement of young people and family/carers,
- quality assurance,
- strategic partnership development,
- capacity-building,
- community mapping,
- fundraising and
- coproduction of the project evaluation framework.

In addition, each partner will receive bespoke support e.g. Fundraising, parent carer support, cultural awareness, specific small research projects

What's the size and scale of the partnership?

We plan to work with 9 partner organisations (one in each region) from across England. Partners will be of different types and sizes to support our test and learn approach.

What are the expectations on partners

NDTi is seeking partners

- delivering work with young people
- working to improve inclusion and equalities
- with robust financial and governance infrastructure/systems
- with a track record of working responsively with communities
- committed to young people,s voice and rights and coproduction
- open to developing new ways of working, strategic networks and partnerships
- are committed to sourcing new funding in this area of work

- have an interest in sharing learning (at any level)
- are committed to working with us over 3 years and can build this into their strategic plans

How will it work if we are working in more than one region of England?

If a partner works across more than one region they are likely to reach many more beneficiaries (the target is 70 per partner). Whilst in principle we would support this, we would need to work with them to analyse and mitigate risks in relation to programme capacity (e.g. evaluation data, staff numbers for training etc)

Will evaluation and learning only be available at the end of the project?

No, learning will be shared at key points during the 3 years of programme delivery.

What resources will partners be able to access?

Partners will be equipped with the resources and contacts we have found useful in our delivery of the Time to Talk Next Steps.

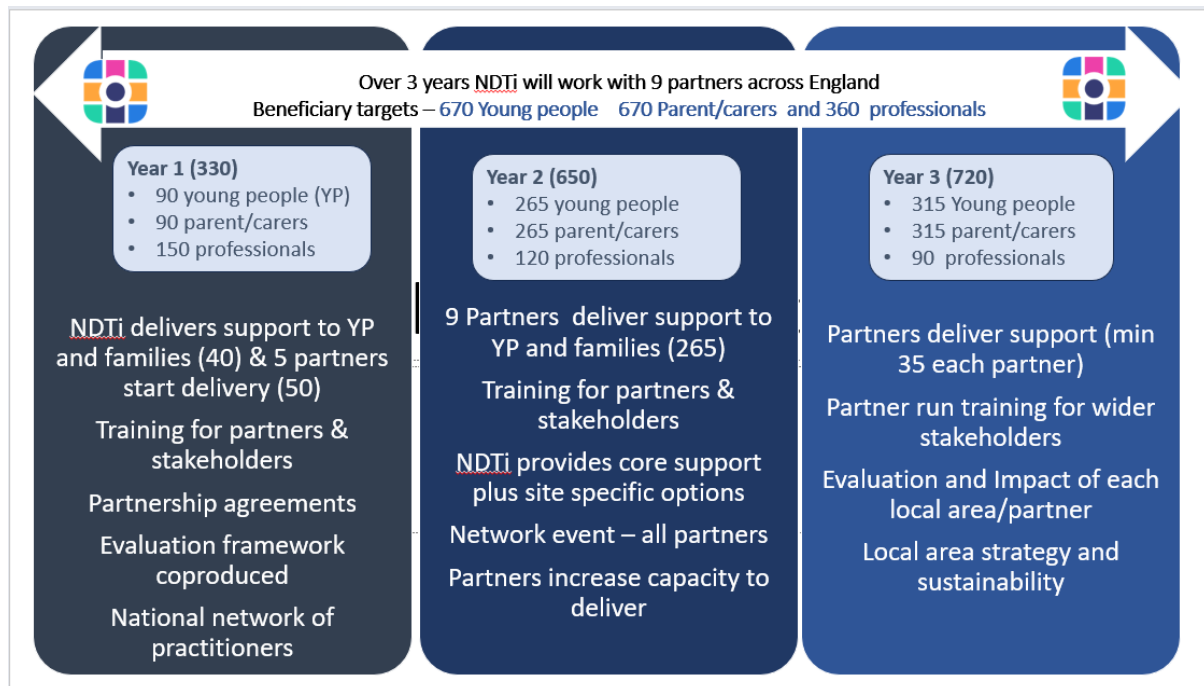
Below are just a few examples of useful resources/links;

- [Preparing for Adulthood: Person-centred Planning Tools —NDTi](#)
- [CAMHS Resources —CAMHS](#)
- [Homepage —Mermaids](#)
- [Making Friends as an Autistic Young Person Easy Read —Ambitious about Autism](#)
- [How to manage anxiety and fear —Mental Health Foundation](#)

Additionally, partners will be encouraged to share resources within the wider partnership.

What is the timeline?

We are applying for funding for Partners Make Time to Talk and we will update potential partners of our progress in April 2024. If we are successful, we will immediately start work to select partners and to develop partnership agreements (over 2 months). The project will be launched and will run over 3 years.



How many young people would each partner support?

Each partner will agree to support at least 70 young people over the period of the programme.

Inclusivity and who can be involved

Could a self-employed individual be involved?

No, we are seeking organisations to become partners in this programme. However, we welcome input from all those with expertise and passion in this area including self-employed people, young people, and parent/carers. Should you wish to contribute to the project but not be attached to an organisation we would still be interested in hearing how you would like to be involved.

Would special schools be able to deliver this as part of an alumni provision?

Yes.

Who is included in the group of 'young people with support needs'?

To ensure inclusivity no diagnosis or label is required to access the support. Young people's support needs will vary and may include those with

- mental health challenges
- experiencing social isolation



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- experiencing homelessness
- facing discrimination due to learning disability and/or autism
- unmet needs in relation to autism and/or disability in education,
- complex health conditions,
- disrupted family life and/or care experience

How would this work with a local authority setting?

If the local authority is running support and/or provision for young people, this programme could be integrated into existing work or programmes. If a local authority is not running this type of support but there is a strategic aim to do so the programme could be used as a trial to build up the evidence of need.