



**Forest Digital Inclusion Partnership
Reflection Session
09 September 2024**

Candace Plouffe

Working Together | Our Agenda

<i>10:00 am</i>	<i>Welcome, Introductions and Easing into the Session</i>
<i>10:15 am</i>	<i>Session Aims</i>
<i>10:20 am</i>	<i>Looking Back: FVAF</i>
	<i>Timeline and Journey of the Partnership</i>
<i>11:05 am</i>	<i>Quick Refreshment Break</i>
<i>11:15 am</i> <i>Time</i>	<i>Exploring what it means to be in Partnership: STAR</i>
<i>12:15 pm</i>	<i>Turning to the Future</i>
<i>12:45 pm</i>	<i>Wrap-up and Reflections from FVAF</i>
<i>1:00 pm</i>	<i>Thank you and Session Close</i>

Getting to into our session....

Lost on a Desert Island...

The situation is dire - following a shipwreck,
Everyone has been stranded on a deserted island!

You are all allowed to bring one object to the island -
Something that represents you or something that you
enjoy...

What is it?

You have 5 minutes to note it and then time to
share



Getting to into the day....

Lost on a Desert Island... Part 2!

As a group, describe how you would work together with what you have to improve your chance of survival.

Be sure to use all the objects people have identified.

You can add 2 more objects....

You have 10 minutes then be prepared to share your plan!



Working Together | Our Aims for Today



Remind us of the **journey** we have been on together;

Understand the **experience and learning** of partnership organisations being a **part of and contributing to the strategic oversight** of the Forest Digital Inclusion programme;

Explore what **long lasting impact** has been achieved from creating a Partnership;

Determine if there is **value in sustaining the Partnership** going forward and how it may need to **continue to further develop**

Looking Back | Reminder of the Journey

The Forest Digital Inclusion Partnership Journey
Alex Digby



The Partnership Journey | Your input

Individually please consider and be ready to share your responses to the following questions....

1

What struck you
Most about the
Alex's reflections?

2

What opportunities
About this Partnership
excited you
and why?

3

What was one thing you
Enjoyed/benefited from
Your involvement in the
Partnership?



You will have **5 Minutes** to prepare your answers to share with the group



Reflection Feedback

Struck you Most	Opportunities that Excited You	Enjoyed/Benefited from being Involved
Just how much freedom we were given by Barnwood to design our project – flexibility in shaping our projects	Working with others and learning about different organisations and lived experience	To see development of ideas to completion
Level and wide range of investments into projects	Chance to increase my awareness of others' challenges	Safe space, with peer to peer challenge /thinking to further develop ideas
Change in partnership makeup, number of partners who dropped away as the work progressed	Chance to bring sizeable investment into the forest and allow partners to shape the spend	Cross partnership working, see across multiple projects
The breadth of knowledge within the partnership when <u>first established</u>	Working with partners who are passionate and connected to the targeted audiences	Passing on my knowledge and learning from others
The value instilled in individual pilots really resources to make a difference	Enabled people from CVT to have an opportunity to be involved in a community wide project where they could share their experiences and learn from the project	The creation bringing an idea alive, with the opportunity to access the equipment/resources to do so

Reflection Feedback

Struck you Most	Opportunities that Excited You	Enjoyed/Benefited from being Involved
<p>The project as a whole has achieved so much for the FoD with knowledge, expertise and outcomes that can be shared wider, through the Forest and beyond</p>	<p>The ability to work with knowledgeable people to bring an initial idea to reality</p>	<p>Seeing how well people have worked together and the Partnership that has been created</p>
<p>How much has been achieved and how far we have come</p>	<p>Shared appreciation of co-production and involvement of those with lived experience</p>	<p>Observing and watching the growth of participants throughout the duration of the project.</p>
<p>Partnership had 3 distinct phases – Beginning, Middle and End. Middle phase not so connected to each other, with operational learnings from this.</p>	<p>The opportunity to bring to life the idea/concept To work with other organisations to create something bigger than what could be achieved alone</p>	<p>Collaborative working with willing learners, working and redesigning content as the groups progressed, adapting and adjusting for success</p>
	<p>Potential for collaboration and learning opportunities</p>	<p>Developing the partnership with Barnwood Trust, FVAF and other organisations</p>
	<p>The opportunity to bring to life the idea/concept</p>	<p>Watching the growth of individuals (e.g. Alex)</p>



15 Minutes



Coffee Break

**Grab some
refreshment and
stretch your legs.**

Why a Partnership? What makes a Partnership work?

“They must yield benefits for the partners, but they are more than just the deal. They are living systems that evolve progressively in their possibilities.

Beyond the immediate reasons partners have for entering into the relationship, the connections offers the parties an option on the future, opening new doors and unforeseen opportunities.

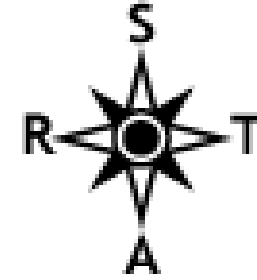
Alliances, or Partnerships that partners deem successful involve collaboration (creating new value together) rather than mere exchange (getting something back for what you put in).

Partners value the skills each brings to the partnerships.

Partnerships can not be “controlled” by formal systems but require a dense web of interpersonal connections and internal infrastructures that enhance learning.”

Forest Digital Inclusion Partnership: How did it work?

STAR Activity: 4 points on the Compass



Separateness: How diverse was the group?

Were the diverse perspectives of members drawn out?

Tuning: How well did we listen to each other, reflecting and collectively making sense of the local digital challenges?

Action: How well did we discuss and agree on actions needed and have opportunity to support each other in delivery of these?

Reason: How clear was our purpose?
How important was it that we work together?

Plotting our Star | How well did we work together?

1

Think about each
Compass point
Definition

Place a Dot on each axis,
A green star for the original
partnership group
A black dot for the current
Partnership group
Centre is Low End of Axis is High

2

3

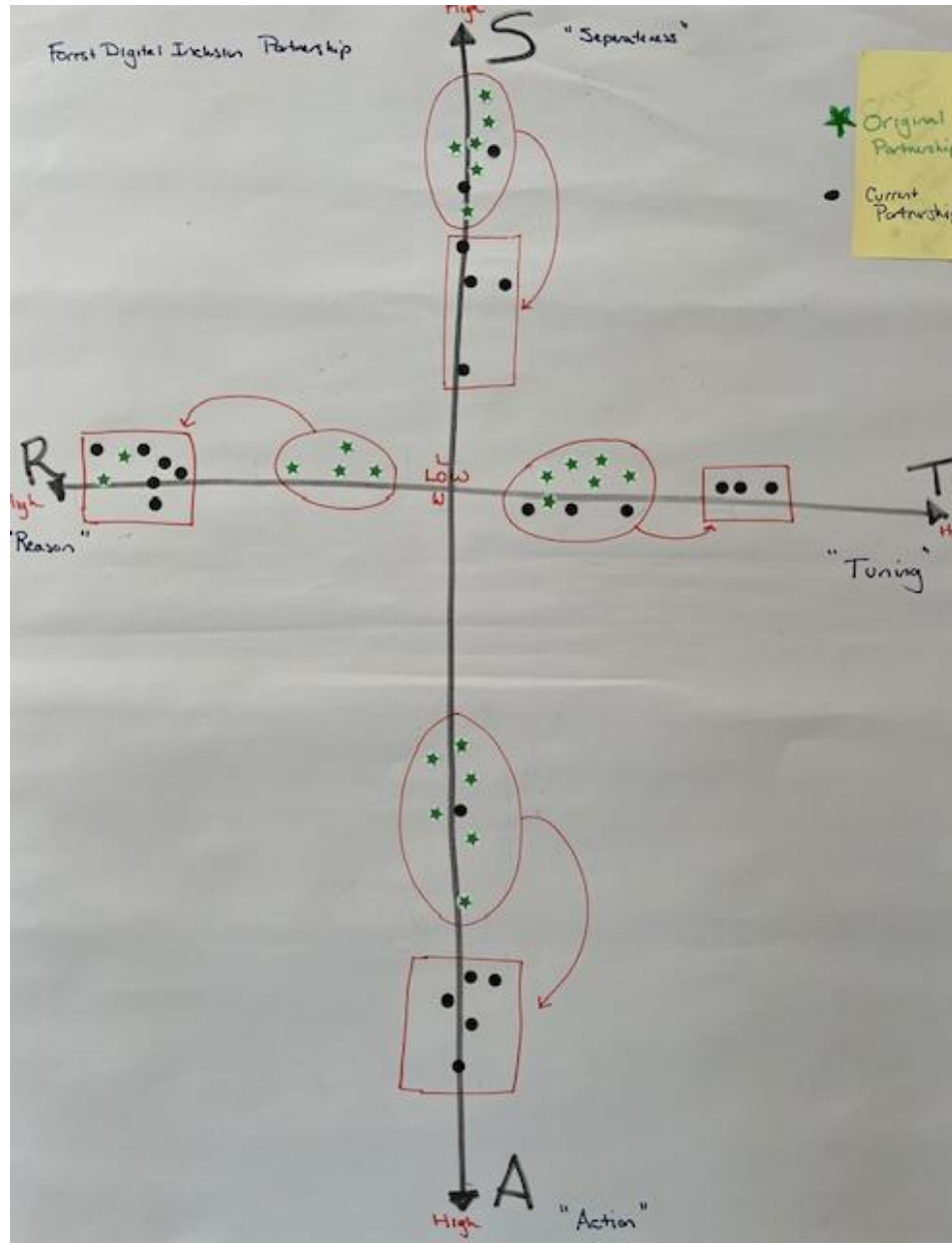
With one another discuss
What pattern you are seeing



You will have **15 Minutes** to both place your dots and discuss with your partner, ready to then share with the group



Forest Digital Inclusion Partnership | Star Plot Outcomes



Our Star | Understanding the Pattern shift

Compass Points	Original Partnership	Current Partnership
Separateness: <i>Diversity of the group</i> And <i>The diverse perspectives of members were utilise</i>	High Level of Separateness, wide and diverse group	Shift to a Lower level of Separateness - less representation, particularly with physical disability and children, young people
Tuning <i>How well we listen to each other, reflecting and collectively making sense of the local digital challenges</i>	Low Level of Tuning	Higher level of Tuning
Action <i>How well we discuss and agree on actions needed and have opportunity to support each other in delivery of these?</i>	Medium Level of Action	Higher Level of Action - likely higher as partnership shifted to focus to the delivery phase of the pilots
Reason: <i>How clear is our purpose</i> And <i>How important is it that we work together?</i>	Low Level of Reason	Higher Level of Reason - increased clarity as shift to theme based working and smaller partnerships formed around individual pilot projects

Partnership STAR Reflections

STAR Analysis

- **Reason:** Original, larger partnership had the diversity, however that always creates the potential of many coming with their own agendas, making it challenging to agreeing the core purpose, focus of the work
- There were wide and diverse beliefs on the underlying issues trying to address, hard to know how to focus down. Lower “tuning” and communication challenges were also an element that contributed to this.
- People came with different perspectives and own passion for an area - at times hard to see how they all fitted together until the partnership shifted into themes and pilot “partnerships”
- Not sure collective purpose became clearer for current partnership – what was clear was the individual purpose of each pilot. Tendency to have a focus more on pilot “partnerships” rather than the wider partnership.
- **Tuning:** Initial phase there was a lot of people in the room and in meetings, making it hard to grasp direction of the work. Follow up communication, written confirmation of decisions helped.
- Some relied on Alex in FVAF as the single point of communication, not so much on the wider collective partnership.
- Communication at times was a challenge. Not sure we listened to each other as well as we could of.
- Once in the pilot project phase, did not meet often enough to “lift up” and look at all the work as a whole – focus on own area instead. Lost collective oversight of the partnership. Opportunity to now come back together
- Timing and capacity issues in meeting together – sense of pressure to focus on and deliver the pilots
- Sense that remuneration framework (payment to participate in wider partnership work and meetings) may have not worked as well as hoped. For those in organisations, with full time jobs, additional funding did not create more capacity to focus on partnership activity.
- **Action:** Took time to agree core elements of the work, and there was delayed actions as result of this. Once in pilot phase action was better, but again at individual pilot level, not necessarily supporting each other through the wider partnership.
- **Separateness:** diversity was generally met, except for representation of physical disability. Ongoing question on how do you include those with lived experienced more fully, including strategic discussions? How the partnerships were formed and their operating environments not conducive for this to happen
- Need to recognise and spend time to understand the diverse working styles and preferences, could have been more proactive with that

Looking Forward | What Now?

Thinking about the original intention of the Partnership

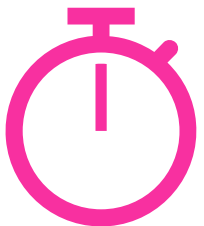
Individually

1

What do you
Sense is the future need
and role the Partnership
could play?

Detail one piece of
learning
or experience
That would help
shape the future of
The Partnership

2



You will have **15 Minutes** to prepare
your answers to discuss with one other
then share with the group



Looking Forward | Feedback

Future Need for the Partnership? Role it could play...	Learning or Experience to Help Shape the Partnership Going forward
<p>Yes Inclusion is a constant and will always evolve. Collaborative opportunities exist, how this is achieved could be individual projects or a wider collaboration with oversight by a partnership - if this, it opens a wider conversation to discuss how, as we have not openly discussed the operational challenges experienced.</p>	<p>Develop opportunities through podcasting - common themes that could enable future partnership working</p>
<p>Yes Cross themed working that was achieved in the pilot phase</p>	<p>Time to understand and look at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - underspend, what we can achieve with it - understand the impact of the whole project - what are the gaps - what can we do next <p>Then to understand and define the refined partnership model going forward</p> <p>Potential need for Memorandum of Understanding to be able to move forward, including agreed values and principles</p>
<p>Yes Partnership has a potential role in the strategic space (ILP model) Could feed into the county digital work Would need</p>	<p>Would need some remuneration system Need to develop work streams to support sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership building - Fundraising - Learning

Looking Forward | Feedback

Future Need for the Partnership? Role it could play...	Learning or Experience to Help Shape the Partnership Going forward
<p>Yes Role would be to continue to share and learn; - resources, e.g. equipment - skills and expertise: programme management and lived experience Ultimately, we will achieve more by working together</p>	<p>Time needed to thoroughly plan what we want to achieve, how we will approach it, how often we will meet and who will prepare what, etc Communication with wider interested parties e.g. website, newsletter, etc</p>
<p>Yes There is a need to do so, we have only just scratched the surface Value in the diversity of the Partners Stronger together than alone Vast amount of expertise together</p>	<p>Timing and waffle! I feel the timings need to be looked at as there was a lot of waffle to start with but not enough time to complete projects to high standards</p>
<p>Yes I feel the partnership going forward could plan an integral part advising other groups about collaboration and knowledge banking. Potential for a further phase to continue and expand the projects by using the partnerships and existing connections made</p>	<p>More collaborative working together, very valuable</p>

Reflections and Wrap Up |

Individually, discuss your reflections from today and consider...

1

What?
What Stood Out
for you from
Today?

So What?
Why was that
Important?

2

3
Now What?
What further
actions make sense?



You will have **5 Minutes** to prepare your answers to share with the group



Looking Forward | Feedback

What Stood out for Today...	So What and Now What
<p>Success, passion and collaboration that has been shared</p> <p>Open and Honest challenge</p> <p>Opportunity as a group to get to spend time and get to know each other</p> <p>How much I like and value partnership working</p>	<p>Next Steps: Alex's slides will be shared Evaluation will be completed the end of September This will be shared with partners for feedback. Will pull from evaluation a proposal to Barnwood on how to use the underspend, but welcome ideas and feedback on this. Presentation to Barnwood in November.</p> <p>Need to arrange follow up Partnership meetings, for October and November. The November meeting will have better idea of Barnwood's view on the underspend.</p> <p>Opportunity to highlight the great work of the Forest partnership and pilots at the Digital Innovation week - key date 16th October, more info to come from Alex</p> <p>Helpful reminder that collectively we could keep the partnership going, not all about money but rather relationships and keeping the connections - knowing working together will have great impact for the people we serve</p>



**Thank you for your
participation today!**