

## Ethical Partners Policy

It is FOCUS' policy that any partner organisations we engage with do not have policies, aims, values or working practices that are ethically or morally opposed to those of FOCUS. By 'partner organisations' we mean those external organisations with which we work directly through any of our programmes, or through a mutually beneficial partnership or funding agreement.

Wherever possible, we will seek to ensure that FOCUS does not engage with companies or organisations whose activities are considered detrimental to the aims of FOCUS, to the welfare or interests of young people, or to society at large.

Prior to agreeing to work with, accept money from, or engage in a partnership with an external organisation that we suspect might not meet with our criteria, our Leadership Team will assess their suitability. If this, or any information gained by us, through formal or informal channels, gives cause for concern we will further investigate the organisation before committing to the partnership or agreement. If necessary, we will seek support and advice from one or more of the following organisations:

- Charity Commission
- NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations)
- Fortus - our Independent Examiners
- BHIB – our insurance brokers

If it is felt by the Leadership Team that an organisation does not meet with our criteria, the Board of Trustees will be consulted prior to a decision being made. The final decision will be made by agreement between the Chief Executive and the Chair of Trustees

It is generally considered that there is an inherent risk to FOCUS, the young people we work with and our financial stability in engaging with such organisations and the trustees will therefore consider this risk quarterly at board meetings.

Issues that may cause such action to be taken may include:

- human rights abuses;
- irresponsible corporate activity, such as excessively damaging ecological impact or unfair trading;
- or activities or products that adversely affect young people's health, well-being, employment prospects, reputation or social standing