



# Collaborate with academics!

The type of collaboration you choose will depend on the problem you want to solve: do you want to generate and/or use evidence to influence policy and practice?

## Consider the benefits of collaborating with academics:

- ✓ Increase your skills and capacity
- ✓ Access expert advice
- ✓ Access funding opportunities
- ✓ Access a wider evidence base
- ✓ Generate new evidence to fill a gap
- ✓ Reach new audiences

## Choose your level of involvement:

Researcher seen as independent from practitioners

Researchers conduct research

on or about

Practitioners or their clients

Researchers conduct research

and

Practitioners help disseminate the findings

Researchers

consult

Practitioners about projects and endorse change

Researchers

do research for

Practitioner organisations

Researchers and practitioners working together to develop, conduct and disseminate results

Collaborative approach

Research achieves greater impact in practice and policy setting

Morton (2012) adapted from Martin (2010).

## Choose the right type of collaboration for the problem you want to solve:

★ to generate evidence

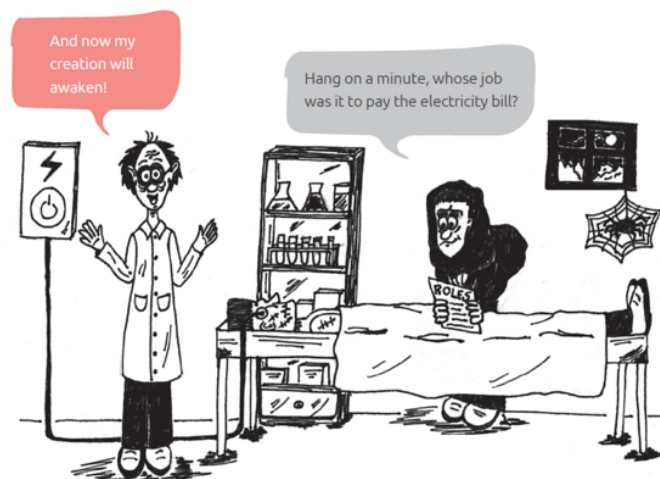


★ to use your/their evidence



## Get the best from your collaboration

- Consider the level of academic experience you need
- Ensure everyone works towards the same goals
- Make sure everyone knows roles, responsibilities and resources
- Ensure everyone is aware of weaknesses and strengths
- Set realistic goals for the available timeframe
- Accept that you come from different but valid and useful angles
- Create a safe/honest space to share ideas and constructively critique others
- Agree how you will communicate your findings
- Stay in touch once the collaboration is over!



This infographic is based on the guide 'Collaborating with academics' written and published by the Knowledge Translation Network (KTN). [www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk](http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk)



This guide makes use of short **In the spotlight** case studies to illustrate relevant pieces of advice, drawing from existing good practice, so you can see what successful collaborations look like in the real world.