

## FRAMING IDEAS FOR Impactful Partnership

- Diverse impacts
- Small things with big effects
- Mind-expanding
- Intimate outsiders
- Evolving art

### Revision

Working in partnership places demands on families and those helping them. All involved have to navigate different ways of being, otherwise the partnership won't work. By 'ways of being' we mean positions that helpers and parents take in relation to each other. These can be conceptualised in terms of pairs of contrasting ways of being, where the emphasis on one or the other evolves and requires subtle, contextualised judgement.

For more information on the key concepts and findings relating to this worksheet see: [creating-better-futures.org/](http://creating-better-futures.org/)

To claim a certificate on completed worksheets see: <https://www.creating-better-futures.org/claim-your-certificate/>

### 1. Key concepts – check your understanding

In your own words, explain what each of the ways of being bubbles means and who it applies to, and make connections to the framing ideas for impactful partnership where you can:

Help-seeker ~ Resourceful agent of change:

Vulnerable ~ Strong:

Knower ~ Questioner:

Supporter ~ Challenger:

Leader-talker ~ Follower-listener:

Also explain what you understand 'agency' to mean:

### 2. Linking ideas to practice

Now you have the concepts in mind, the next step is to connect them to your practice:

Concept	How it relates to my practice
Help-seeker ~ Resourceful agent of change	
Vulnerable ~ Strong	
Knower ~ Questioner	
Supporter ~ Challenger	
Leader-talker ~ Follower-listener	

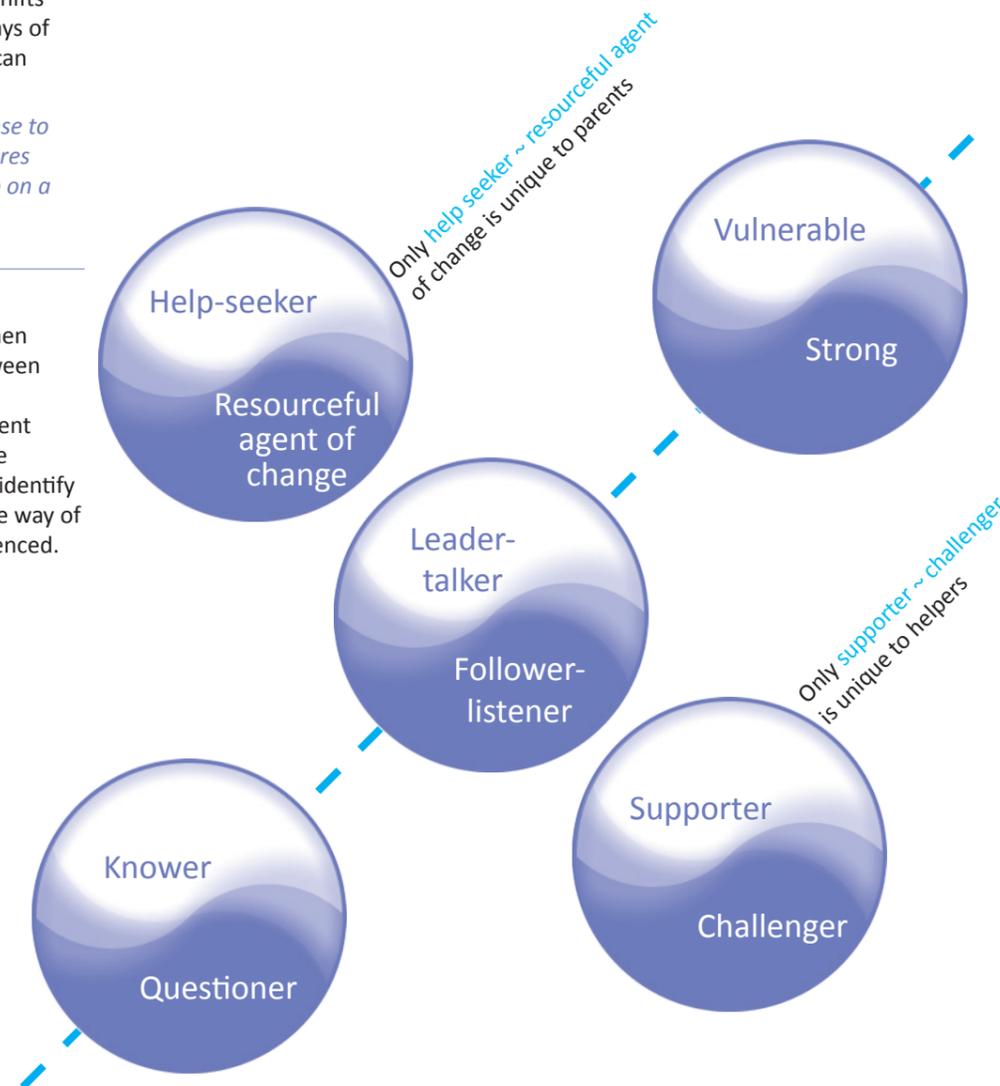
### 3. Understanding the diagram

The diagram shows five distinct, paired ways of being in partnership. This is meant to show the often rapid shifts between seemingly opposite ways of being that helpers and parents can experience in partnership.

*If the diagram doesn't make sense to you, draw something that captures the ways of being in partnership on a separate sheet.*

### 4. Working with the diagram

Can you think of an occasion when you found yourself shifting between each side of one or more of the paired ways of being in your recent work with a family? Describe the conversation that occurred and identify which of the bubbles reflects the way of being in partnership you experienced.



### 5. Enhancing your practice

On a separate sheet:

- Choose two of the *Questions for reflective practice* (see right) and write your answer on a separate piece of paper. If they don't quite work you can adapt them.
- Look at the *Questions to adapt and ask with parents* (see right). Think of a family you are working with or have recently finished working with. Choose two questions you think you could use or adapt to ask the parents, and explain why these might be important, and what you think they might say in response.

#### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

- What have I done as a knower and questioner?
- What have I done as a supporter and challenger?
- In what ways have I led the work, and in what ways have I followed?
- What from my past experience could help me recognise the strengths and vulnerabilities in this family?
- In the past, how have I balanced giving parents the help they need, with getting them to take their own action?
- What aspects of my knowledge could I put to work that haven't come into play yet?
- What shape will the next challenges take?
- What will the best balance between being a leader-talker and follower-listener be in our next interactions?

#### QUESTIONS TO ADAPT AND ASK WITH PARENTS

- What have you found out through our work together so far?
- What aspects of your own knowledge and experience have been important?
- In what ways have you had to be courageous?
- What would the most valuable help to you right now look like?
- What are the things that you feel you are gaining more control over?
- What past experiences could you draw on to help you through the next stage?
- What have you done that has surprised you since we first met / since our last meeting?
- Of all the things you've done while we've been working together, what has made the biggest difference?