How can we leverage Community of Practice (CoP) for knowledge co-creation to establish new and impact-driven approaches to address challenges in the After School space? Partners in the four pillar groups — academic support, sports and recreation, arts and culture and psycho-social support— reflected on the strengths, challenges and collective solutions. The four groups identified several solutions highlighting the need to build effective strategic partnerships with external stakeholders.
**Arts and Culture**

**Strengths**
- Social grounding
- Promoting cultural experiences
- Youth appeal
- Growing demand

**Challenges**
- Limited resources in rural areas
- Lack of organisations in the arts space
- Lack of awareness on art as a career choice
- Limited networking opportunities
- Promoting art as a process that donors can understand
- The exclusion of artist management and financial skills in arts programmes
- Promoting volunteerism by artists in arts programmes

**Potential Partnerships**
- Department of Sports, Arts and Culture
- Department of Basic Education
- Department of Social Development
- Institutions of Higher Learning
- Local Municipalities
- Eastern Cape Arts and Culture Council

**Psycho-Social Support**

**Strengths**
- Committed staff
- Organised programmes
- Opportunities for referrals
- Strong community ties

**Challenges**
- Limited human resource capacity
- Government entities taking credit for NGO work
- Registration and compliance requirements from government
- Overstretched NGOs
- Need to identify good practices

**Potential Partnerships**
- Tertiary Institutions
- Department of Social Development
- Department of Basic Education
- Community Leadership
- Parents

**Sports and Recreation**

**Strengths**
- Organisational leadership
- Community support

**Challenges**
- Compliance issues on sports related matters
- Counselling gaps
- Limited capacity
- Lack of collaborations
- Limited funding

**Potential Partnerships**
- Department of Sports, Arts and Culture
- Department of Basic Education
- Department of Social Development
- National Lotteries Commission
- Local Sports Organisations
- Parents
Building a better understanding of **compliance requirements** from various departments and formulating response strategies accordingly.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

- Building intentional and **meaningful partnerships**/collaborations.
- Exploring opportunities for **capacity building** with institutions of higher learning.
- Promoting **community voices** and **active citizenship** in raising awareness on child protection.
- Tapping into available **DBE training** for capacity building on supporting learners with disabilities.
- Improving learner **access to scholarships** through stronger relationships with relevant departments.
- Exploring possibilities for establishing **classroom partnerships** for improved access to space and learners.
- Building a better understanding of **compliance requirements** from various departments and formulating response strategies accordingly.