

Nottinghamshire COMPACT

This document sets out a framework to guide the relationships between Nottinghamshire County Council and the Voluntary & Community organisations of the County. It has been developed jointly by the County Council and the Voluntary & Community Sector.

Our Shared Values & Principles

We propose that these shared values and principles should be used to guide and underpin the long-term development of our working relationships within Nottinghamshire:

- By working in partnership towards common aims and objectives we will add value to services in Nottinghamshire.
- Joint working demands integrity and a willingness to communicate in accountable, open and honest ways
- The County Council and the voluntary and community sector have distinct but valuable and complementary roles, in the development and delivery of public policy and services
- Differences of opinion will arise, but we are committed to resolving them in a constructive and respectful manner
- The independence of the voluntary and community sector is crucial to the development, delivery and scrutiny of quality services
- Voluntary and community organisations are entitled, regardless of funding sources, to act as advocates in challenging and seeking changes in public policy
- We need to be active in ensuring that minority ethnic and other disadvantaged groups are included in our consultation and policy development processes so that their views are heard and their concerns acted upon

How we will work together

Nottinghamshire County Council	VCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognise and support the independence of the sector, the quality of its service provision and its role in advocating for communities and individuals• Operate commissioning and funding processes (including de-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain high standards of governance and service delivery to meet their obligations to funders and users within the framework of the law• Participate in liaison and review meetings to ensure that users, volunteers, members and supporters

<p>commissioning or grant withdrawal) which recognise the sector's need to operate efficiently and effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that liaison and consultation need time and money. The VCS cannot undertake these activities at the expense of service provision. A clear protocol on consultation arrangements must be agreed and liaison and consultation must be paid for • Recognise the complexity of the sector and the broad range of views and groups representatives have to reflect. Pay to support proper representative processes and use the channels that are created • Recognise that small, local groups have an important voice. Support the VCS in channelling that voice so that it is heard particularly by supporting the infrastructure leadership role • Allocate resources against clear and consistent criteria in an open and fair process. Use the VCS quality standards in agreed monitoring processes 	<p>are informed and consulted, as appropriate, about activities and policy positions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select and support representatives. However, a representative must say when he/she is speaking for him/herself or their organisation or on behalf of a wider network. Furthermore, the representative should report back to his/her organisation or network and other relevant interested organisations • Help and encourage joint working between small and excluded organisations • Develop quality standards appropriate to the sector, and put in place the leadership and policies for promoting best practice and equality of opportunity in activities, employment, involvement of volunteers and service provision
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Effective Dispute Resolution

Despite best intentions, disputes arise and sometimes threaten important relationships.

Wherever possible, disputes and disagreements should be resolved amicably. The process of resolving disputes amicably between local partners is an important part of strengthening on-going relationships between the sectors.

Prevention is better than cure – if there are concerns around funding or relationships with the County Council it should be addressed before it becomes a problem.

The organisation/s concerned should discuss the issue with the County Council and try to resolve the issue amicably between them.

We agree to keep it professional and to involve outside help if needed.