

### **Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council** **Statement of Intent to the Voluntary and Community Sectors**

Newcastle Borough Council have consistently considered the voluntary and community sector as a key partner in the delivery of services across the borough and have implemented a number of initiatives to support this concept including Locality Action Partnerships and a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.

Newcastle Borough Council is currently undertaking a number of changes internally and externally, including a review of spending, services, priorities and partnership arrangements.

Newcastle Borough Council will in whatever ways it can, continue its commitment to the voluntary and community sector.

The Borough Council will continue to work with the voluntary and community sector to deliver key outcomes for the benefit of the community.

The Borough Council will be active in looking for ways to deliver government policy, including consideration of how they can collaborate more frequently with the voluntary and community sectors in the shaping and delivery of public services.

Newcastle Borough Council will be sensitive to the benefits and needs of voluntary and community groups and set out the following reasonable expectations as part of their continuing and ongoing commitment to the sector:

- Continued commitment to the development of locality working that aims to empower voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises.
- Requirement that internal departments consider the role of voluntary and community groups in the delivery of public services relevant to their service area and an ongoing commitment to the use and development of Newcastle Borough Council's Third Sector Commissioning Framework.
- Agreement to continue to comply with the requirements of the local Compact and resource allocated to monitoring developments of the National Compact.
- Engagement and consultation will continue through the Partnership structure.
- Ongoing commitment to work closely with infrastructure organisations to deliver positive outcomes for the community.
- Where NBC does intend to withdraw or reduce funding to a voluntary or community group, they will provide appropriate notice, outlining clear reasons for the withdrawal and where the service is to be re-commissioned, the opportunity for the local community to be involved in the redesign of the service.

Newcastle Borough Council will monitor their compliance with the Department for Communities and Local Governments' Best Value Statutory Guidance relating to work with voluntary and community groups and where necessary will review this statement in the future.

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