

VCSE Pledge for Local Authorities

- 1.1. This Pledge is intended to be a public commitment to work in collaboration with the local voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.
- 1.2. It recognises the VCSE sectors role as local service providers, as a source of local intelligence, as a form of democratic involvement and as an important part of the local economy.
- 1.3. The Pledge has been reviewed and is endorsed by [Team Staffordshire](#), a local cooperation between VCSE umbrella bodies and elected representatives.
- 1.4. The below Pledge can be provided in a large format with council logos and information alongside those of Team Staffordshire and Support Staffordshire. This can be formally adopted and signed by a Cabinet or Council meeting by arrangement.
- 1.5. Where appropriate, the main Pledges can be reviewed periodically against the day to day practice of the authority, working between Support Staffordshire and a nominated authority officer. This may result in an action plan for areas which can be further developed.

1.6 The Pledge:

- a. We recognise and value the critical role of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in the local community, including but not limited to providing an important array of local services to our residents
- b. We share many aims for improving the lives of local people, with the VCSE sector and as such commit to working together where possible, to achieve those joint aims
- c. We recognise the role of VCSE organisations in providing insight and connecting us to communities of place, interest and identity with whom we may wish to consult and collaborate. We will do our best to engage the sector in a fair and timely manner
- d. Where we seek formal representation from the sector we will do so in a fair, transparent and accountable manner
- e. We recognise that in some cases, from time to time, some VCSEs may disagree with particular public policies or the ways in which we decide to deliver services. We recognise their independence from statutory and political structures and their right to disagree. Where possible we will continue to work with such organisations in a mutually constructive way, bearing in mind the wider aims which we may share
- f. We recognise that many charities, larger community organisations and social enterprises are professional organisations delivering high quality services and should be thought of as businesses and employers as well as 'voluntary sector', especially in terms of local economic planning
- g. Where we commission, procure or contract with the VCSE sector, we will do so in a fair, proportionate and transparent way. Where relevant we will include in our procurement proper measures of social value in addition to value for money, including where appropriate 'buying local'. Where appropriate we will use innovative forms of procurement rather than relying upon the standard competitive tender alone
- h. As a large and complex 'sector' we recognise the value of working closely with relevant umbrella bodies from Team Staffordshire, to maximise our ability to have a wide and open dialogue with as much of the VCSE sector as possible

For further information and schedule a cabinet/council endorsement

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