

# Salford Compact

On relations between the  
Statutory Sector  
and the  
Voluntary, Community and Social  
Enterprise (VCSE) sector  
in Salford



**Salford City Council**

Reviewed 2024

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# Introduction

- A Compact is a written understanding between the Public sector and the VCSE sector.
- It is intended to guide the process of working in partnership to deliver public services.
- It covers the whole spectrum of partnership working from consultation and community involvement, through representation on planning bodies and participation in networks, to funding, procurement and contracting.
- It covers issues of process rather than substance, i.e. the way plans are made and decisions taken – rather than the content of those plans and decisions.
- A National Compact between central government and the VCSE sector was first introduced in 1998.
- Since 1998 local Compacts have been developed in many districts between the Public sector and the VCSE sector.

- In Salford the initial partners to the Compact were Salford Primary Care Trust, Salford City Council and Salford Council for Voluntary Service. Other VCSE organisations and Public sector agencies have subsequently signed the Compact.
- Current partners are Salford CVS, Salford City Council and NHS GM ICS (Salford Locality)
- In Salford we are using the term VCSE sector to indicate a vision that includes community groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises, mutuals and cooperatives.

**The following subsequent Codes of Good Practice have been agreed:**

- Funding and procurement
- Volunteering
- Community involvement, partnerships and networks
- Social inclusion

**These can be found on the Salford CVS website**

# Shared Vision

**1.** The Salford Compact will underpin the relationship between the partners, improving communication and understanding and strengthening our collective capacity to work together to improve the quality of life for Salford citizens.

**2.** The Salford Compact will help to foster a thriving, diverse and independent VCSE sector in Salford, with funding and contracting arrangements that:

- are clear and easy to understand
- are fair and consistent
- target areas of greatest need
- carry an administrative burden proportionate to the level of funding
- permit and encourage effective forward planning

**3.** The Salford Compact will help to ensure a shared focus on the needs of the most marginalised and disadvantaged individuals and communities in Salford, including both established and emerging minority ethnic communities.

**4.** The Salford Compact will help to ensure that the VCSE sector not only participates in joint working and partnership structures but exercises a real influence on the planning and development of local services and public initiatives.

**5.** The Salford Compact will help to ensure a wider and more sustained recognition of the social and economic value of volunteering, in terms of both the personal and professional development of the volunteer and the public services provided.

**6.** The Salford Compact will promote effective governance and management of both Public sector and VCSE sector agencies. It will underpin a shared commitment to building the capacity of VCSE sector organisations. It will also encourage best practice in all sectors and seek continuous improvement in the planning and delivery of services

# Shared Principles

- 1.** The Public sector agencies and the VCSE sector play different but complementary roles. The people of Salford will gain from our working together, particularly in shaping and delivering responsive and high-quality public services.
- 2.** Voluntary action and community involvement are an essential part of an inclusive and democratic society. An independent and diverse VCSE sector is essential to the health of Salford's communities.
- 3.** Public sector and VCSE sector agencies will respect the confidentiality of each other's information provided for the purpose of supporting effective partnership working.
- 4.** Individual Public Sector agencies and VCSE sector organisations have their own objectives, priorities and ways of working and are answerable to different stakeholders. Relationships between them as partners must acknowledge the respective responsibilities and accountabilities of the different agencies and organisations.

**5.** The Salford Compact signatories must be committed to resolving any disagreements or differences of interpretation about any provisions of the Salford Compact in a constructive way, in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



# Undertakings by the Public sector partners

1. The Public sector partners recognise and support the independence of the VCSE sector and it's right to determine and manage its own affairs.

This includes its right, within the law, to campaign, to comment on Public sector policies and to challenge those policies irrespective of any funding or partnership relationship that might exist.

2. The Public sector partners will continue to improve their practices in relation to the VCSE sector by:

- promoting effective partnership working
- ensuring whenever possible that policy decisions are made public

3. Recognising the important role and contribution of the many voluntary and community groups operating within the city

- ensuring that Compact principles are embedded within their respective organisations by providing awareness and training for staff at all levels.

#### **4. Supporting the development, implementation and monitoring of the Compact in line with the agreed Vision and Principles.**

This support will include:

- ensuring that key staff are able to take part in this work
- endorsing the need for detailed Codes of Good Practice to cover key issues, such as funding and procurement, consultation and policy development, volunteering and social inclusion
- being prepared to review their own procedures and timetables in light of the Codes of Good Practice
- endorsing the need for procedures for resolving disagreements

#### **5. Reviewing the operation of the Compact annually together with representatives from the VCSE sector.**

# Undertakings by the VCSE sector

1. The VCSE sector will promote effective working relationships with Public sector agencies. It will recognise the unique role and responsibilities of the Public Sector partners, including their duty to obtain best value for all public funds and to comment on and assess work carried out by the VCSE sector that is financed by Public sector funds.
2. VCSE sector agencies will aim to ensure that service-users, volunteers, members, supporters and staff are informed and consulted about the organisation's activities and policy positions. They will reflect the views gathered through this consultation process when presenting a case to Public sector agencies or responding to their consultations.
3. The VCSE sector will strive to maintain high standards of governance and conduct and undertakes to meet reporting and accountability obligations to funders and service users. It will endeavour to involve service users and carers in the development and management of activities and services.

**4.** Agencies in the VCSE sector will be encouraged to develop quality standards appropriate to the organisation, including promoting best practice and equality of opportunity in activities, employment, involvement of volunteers and service provision.

**5.** The VCSE sector undertakes to respect and be accountable to the law. In the case of registered charities, they will observe the accounting framework and other appropriate guidance as laid down by the Charity Commission.

**6.** The VCSE sector will support the development, implementation and monitoring of the Compact in line with the agreed Vision and Principles. This support will include:

- ensuring that key staff can take part in this work
- endorsing the need for detailed Codes of Good Practice to cover key issues such as funding and procurement, consultation and policy development, volunteering and social inclusion
- being prepared to review their own procedures and timetables in light of the Codes of Good Practice

- endorsing the need for procedures for resolving disagreements
- reviewing the operation of the Compact annually together with representatives from the Public sector partners.

# Resolution of disagreements

All parties to this Compact are committed to a meaningful and effective procedure for resolving disagreements.

Responsibility for this will lie with a monitoring body made up of representatives from the Compact partners.

Whilst noting that the VCSE sector is not a unitary body, it is envisaged that all representatives will have appropriate authority to follow up any apparent breaches of the Compact within their own sector.

In the case of the Public sector partners, they will have the authority to seek resolution at a senior level.

Where there is difficulty resolving a disagreement locally, the national Compact Mediation Scheme will be seen as an appropriate next step, which may be invoked by any of the parties to the Compact without sanction.

# Appendix

## Definitions

The term Public sector is used to denote agencies which are part of or created by central or local government and which are, thereby, directly or indirectly accountable to the general public through some part of the electoral process.

The term VCSE sector is used to denote agencies that are neither Public sector nor profit-making. These will be typically voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises which have been created by and are accountable to their own governing bodies.

## Key Contacts

### **Salford City Council**

Sandra Derbyshire

email: [sandra.derbyshire@salford.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.derbyshire@salford.gov.uk)

Tel: 0161 794 4711

### **Salford CVS**

Alison Page

email: [alison.page@salfordcvs.co.uk](mailto:alison.page@salfordcvs.co.uk)

Tel: 0161 787 7795

Copies of all the Codes of Practice are available by request.

Alternatively, email: [office@salfordcvs.co.uk](mailto:office@salfordcvs.co.uk)

or telephone 0161 787 7795.