

**APPENDIX****THE NOTTINGHAM & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMPACT****About the Compact**

This document is an agreement between public sector organisations and voluntary and community organisations [VCS] across the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

This Compact provides the framework for improved partnership working and recognises and supports the contribution that all partners make, underpinned by mutual understanding, trust and respect. It builds on the collaboration and joint working progressed as an emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It sets out how the public sector and the VCS can get the most out of partnership working by meeting our respective commitments and work together for the benefit of our communities and residents.

**Background**

The VCS across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham makes a huge contribution and has, as ever, played a critical role during the pandemic. It is important the sector which provides services and support to those residents who are especially vulnerable to the virus such as older people, disabled people, those with specific health conditions, the homeless and those who are economically disadvantaged are supported in the longer term.

Strengthening relationships with and across the sector will maximise on opportunities to develop a whole systems approach to supporting the financial health and resilience of the sector ultimately leading to person centred, sustainable services and a longer-term impact on widening health inequalities. Joint and collaborative working will enable the health and social care system to benefit from the expertise and local knowledge of VCS partners and in the short-term enable direct coordinated support to those communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

For the purposes of this document the term 'Voluntary and Community Sector' is used to describe voluntary organisations, community groups, the community work of faith groups, and those social enterprises and community interest companies where there is a wider accountability to the public via a board of trustees or membership and all profits are reinvested in their social purpose.

**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 across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham:

- Working as equal partners, the VCS is accepted with parity of esteem by its statutory colleagues and that collaboration across and between the VCS is an important principal. A relationship built on trust, equality and mutual understanding for the achievement of common aims and objectives, we will add value to services in Nottinghamshire.
- Joint working demands integrity and a willingness to regularly communicate in an accountable, open and honest ways and
- We will accept the challenges each partner may face and use a strength- based approach to solving problems together
- Accept that LRF partners 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 driven by shared purpose and values and not individual gain.
- The independence and diversity 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 seeking to influence and strengthen public policy.
- All partners will be respected and afforded the opportunity to put across their point of view
- We will work in partnership to ensure 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
- We will work collaboratively to ensure that the voices of individuals and groups who face health inequalities are heard within consultation and policy development processes including the co-design and production of services
- We will respect each other's specialisms and expertise
- We will always seek the knowledge and guidance of the community we serve in the redesign of services
- We will work together to maximise the impact of investment in the VCS through a strategic approach to funding which eliminates duplication and targets the needs of local communities to gain the greatest return for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire pound.
- We will accept the value of individual emotional, psychological and interpersonal [soft outcomes] and social benefits in challenging health inequalities and integrate the Social Value Act 2019 in the decisions we make.

### **Implementing the Compact**

Implementing this Compact can help partners achieve:

- Equity in relationships
- Informed decisions based on the knowledge of local communities
- More appropriate funding that more closely reflects the needs users
- Progress towards a more equal society by identifying and tackling inequality and disadvantage
- Value for money

To implement the Compact effectively, public sector and VCS organisations will take steps to ensure that they:

- Are aware of the Compact and its implications for their work
- Incorporate the principles and values of the Compact into their policies and procedures