

## **SOUTHAMPTON COMPACT**

### **Between the Public Sector and the Voluntary and Community Sector**

#### **PRINCIPLES**

The Community Strategy vision for Southampton in 2020 is a City in which residents feel proud to live and visitors will always remember:

- A City where everyone – within and beyond its boundaries – can contribute to, and benefit from, its success
- A City where no one is seriously disadvantaged because of where they live, their personal circumstances or the community they belong to
- A City where everyone has the chance to acquire the skills, confidence and employment opportunities they need to improve their quality of life

As well as contributing to this overall vision the Southampton Compact between the public sector and the voluntary and community sector will make a significant contribution to the vision in Southampton's Community Strategy to promote involvement and voluntary action:

**Southampton will be a strong and cohesive City, celebrating diversity and equal opportunity for all. The voluntary sector will ensure that its work is valued and greatly appreciated and covers a range of activities from highly-skilled support and advice to straightforward and practical help.**

The Compact recognises the particular contribution of statutory agencies to support the voluntary and community sector in achieving this vision.

#### **All partners and signatories to the Southampton Compact agree to**

1. Work together to meet the strategic priorities of the Community Strategy.
2. Promote active citizenship and volunteering in recognition that a thriving community and voluntary sector is fundamental to the success of the City.
3. Celebrate the diverse communities that make up Southampton and ensure they are able to participate fully in the life of the City.
4. Respect each other's differing roles, functions and ways of working.
5. Recognise that trust and co-operation benefits all partners.

#### **Public sector signatories to the Southampton Compact agree to**

6. Offer funding programmes with clear criteria, adequate timescales and application processes and monitoring appropriate to the level of funding.

#### **What is the Southampton Compact?**

A set of shared and common Principles and Codes of Good Practice that underpin the relationship between the public sector and the voluntary and community sectors in Southampton. It aims to increase understanding, clarify expectations and improve joint working in the City.

### **Who is the Southampton Compact for?**

It is not legally binding but all local public funded bodies such as the NHS Trusts, the City Council, the Southampton Partnership, the Police, the Learning and Skills Council, the Probation Service and the whole range of voluntary and community groups in the City are being asked to adopt the Compact and Codes of Good Practice. It is hoped that where appropriate it will also be adopted by the private sector.

### **What are the Codes of Good Practice?**

The Codes of Good Practice set out the more detailed recommended best working practice in the following five areas

- **Volunteering**
- **Consultation and Policy Appraisal**
- **Funding and Procurement**
- **Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Organisations**
- **Community Groups**

### **How were Compact and Codes developed?**

By a Compact Steering Group and Code of Good Practice Working Groups made up of representatives of the public sector and the voluntary and community sector under the umbrella of the Southampton Partnership. It is based on the national Compact and the various protocols, guidance and agreements already used in the City.

### **How will the Compact and Codes be implemented?**

Members of the Compact Steering Group will act as Compact “Champions” promoting the Compact and Codes within their groups, organisations and partnerships.

### **How will the Compact and Codes be monitored?**

An Annual Meeting will be convened by the Compact Steering Group to review progress and agree an Action Plan for the following year.

### **How will any disagreements be resolved?**

As far as possible any disagreements or breaches should be resolved by negotiation and discussion between those involved. The national Compact Mediation Scheme may be able to help in this process. If this fails then any existing agreed or statutory dispute resolution mechanisms or the relevant Ombudsman may be used.

### **For more information contact**

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