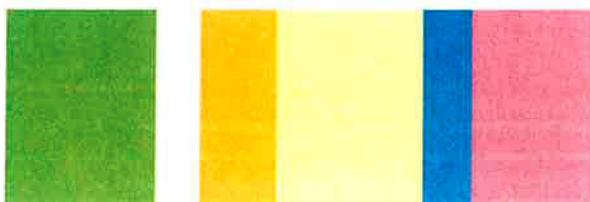


Compact for the London Borough of Havering

Working effectively in partnership for the
benefit of Havering



Foreword

The Purpose of the Havering Compact

The Compact for Havering is a written commitment to inform positive partnership working between the public bodies and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Havering.

The Compact has provided a framework for joint working between the public and voluntary sectors in Havering since 2003. Since then much work has been done to bring the partners together to work on the development of the Compact and to disseminate its principles into partner agencies. The Compact for Havering was refreshed in 2010 and rewritten in 2015 to reflect the outcomes in the renewed National Compact.

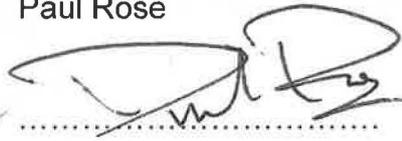
The refreshed Compact for Havering is a commitment to open, transparent and fair working practices between public bodies and VCS partners. Its aim is to improve relationships, communication, participation and services to create a better Havering.

The following representatives of the Compact for Havering steering group are pleased to sign up to the principles and commitments of the Havering Compact.

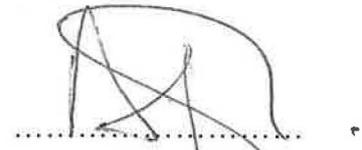
London Borough of Havering
Cllr Melvin Wallace



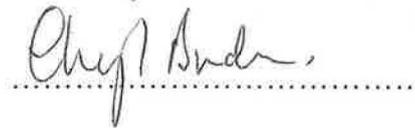
Chair of Steering Group
Paul Rose



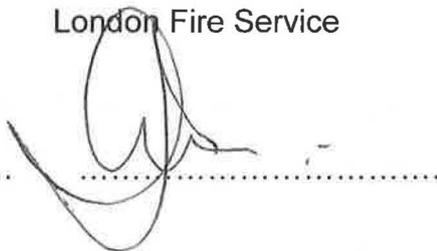
Tapestry



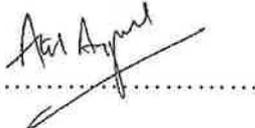
Metropolitan Police



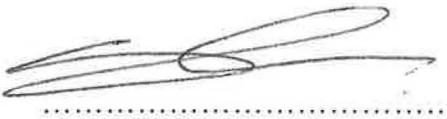
London Fire Service



Chair of Havering CCG
Dr Atul Aggarwal



Havering Volunteer Centre



Our shared Havering Compact principles

Our aim is to provide quality services to the people of Havering. We recognise that there is added value in working in partnership to achieve common outcomes. The following principles underpin our approach to working in partnership:

Recognise that the VCS make a valuable contribution to the economic, environmental and social development of Havering.

- To respect and value the differences and diversity between the public sector and the VCS
- To recognise the distinct but complementary roles of the public sector and the VCS in the development and delivery of services
- To recognise that each sector has its own set of responsibilities and constraints
- To respect the independence of the VCS
- The Council will encourage the development of shared working and collaboration amongst the sector to ensure long term sustainability
- To uphold an open, respectful relationship between the sectors and demonstrate trust
- Each sector should strive for excellence and equality of access
- To give equal consideration and respect to contributions from each sector

Havering Compact Outcomes

An effective partnership between the VCS, Havering Council and partners will support to achieve the following outcomes:

1. A strong, diverse and independent voluntary, community and third sector in Havering.
2. Effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services in Havering
3. Responsive and high-quality programmes and services for the residents of Havering
4. Clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services
5. An equal and fair society

We will achieve this by:

- Promoting a culture of empowerment and continually improving working relationships across all sectors;
- Widening the local community's influence on decision-making processes;
- Developing further the network between the local public bodies and the VCS.

1 A strong, diverse and independent VCS

Commitments for Havering Council and Partners

- 1.1 Respect and promote the independence of the VCS
- 1.2 Support the VCS to access support and/or resources, to support them to work in partnership to meet Havering's desired outcomes
- 1.3 Ensure greater transparency by making data and information more accessible, helping the VCS to challenge existing provision of services, access new markets and hold public bodies to account.
- 1.4 Recognise that volunteering adds value to public services and brings about positive benefits to local people and service users. Encourage volunteering to be undertaken by a high proportion of people across diverse backgrounds.
- 1.5 Recognise that the voluntary sector makes a valuable contribution to the economic, environmental and social development of Havering.
- 1.6 Consider a range of ways to support VCS organisations, such as the sharing of resources or use of public owned premises.
- 1.7 Seek out opportunities to explore joint funding bids with the voluntary sector to maximise investment into the borough.

Commitments for the VCS

- 1.9 When campaigning or advocating, ensure that robust evidence is provided, including information about the source and range of people and communities represented.
- 1.10 Ensure independence is upheld, focusing on the cause represented, regardless of any relationship they have with statutory bodies, financial or otherwise.
- 1.11 Work in constructive partnership with the public sector and with other VCS organisations to meet the needs of local communities.
- 1.12 Ensure accuracy when calculating costs, avoiding duplicate claims from different sources.
- 1.13 Develop and adopt policies that reflect best practice within an organisation's field of work and achieve a standard acceptable to all.
- 1.14 Recognise that volunteering adds value to public services and brings about positive benefits to local people and service users. Encourage volunteering to be undertaken by a high proportion of people across diverse backgrounds.
- 1.15 Seek out opportunities to explore joint funding bids with the public sector to maximise investment into the borough.

2 Effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services in Havering

Commitments for Havering Council and Partners

- 2.1 Ensure that social and environmental well-being and economic value form a standard part of designing, developing and delivering policies, programmes and services.
- 2.2 Consider the social impact that may result from policy and programme development, and in particular consider how these would impact local efforts to inspire, encourage and to empower social action in communities.
- 2.3 Work with VCS organisations from the earliest possible stage to design policies, programmes and services that may impact on the VCS. Ensure new programmes and services uphold jointly agreed outcomes, providing scope for innovation wherever possible. Ensure those likely to have a view are involved from the start and remove barriers that may prevent organisations contributing where possible.
- 2.4 Give early notice of forthcoming consultations, where possible, allowing enough time for VCS organisations to involve their service users, clients, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees in preparing responses. Where it is appropriate, and enables meaningful engagement, conduct 12-week formal written consultations.
- 2.5 Provide feedback as standard practice unless other arrangements are made (for example through an overall Council or partners response) to explain how respondents have influenced the design and development of policies, programmes and public services, including where respondents' views have not been acted upon and why.
- 2.6 Assess the implications for the VCS of new policies, legislation and guidance, aiming to reduce the bureaucratic burden, particularly on smaller organisations, where possible.

Commitment for the VCS

- 2.7 Recognise and appreciate the constraints (financial and otherwise), legislative frameworks and statutory guidance that public sector bodies are required to work within and which may limit their freedom to act.
- 2.8 Respect the right of the elected and appointed public sector bodies to take decisions that may be unpopular with some voluntary and community groups.
- 2.9 Promote and respond to Council and partners' consultations where appropriate.
- 2.10 Seek the views of services users, carers, clients, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees when making representation to Havering Council and partners. Be clear on who is being represented, in what capacity, and on what basis that representation is being made.
- 2.11 Demonstrate the social, environmental well-being or economic value of the programmes and services provided, where appropriate.
- 2.12 When putting forward ideas, focus on evidence-based solutions, with clear proposals for positive outcomes.

3 Responsive and high-quality programmes and services for the residents of Havering

Commitments for Havering Council and Partners in Havering

- 3.1 Encourage the opening up of new markets in accordance with wider public service reform measures and reforming the commissioning environment in existing markets where possible.
- 3.2 Consider a wide range of ways to fund or resource the VCS, including grants, contracts and use of premises.
- 3.3 Work to remove barriers and bureaucracy that may prevent VCS organisations accessing statutory sector funding, thereby enabling smaller organisations to become involved in delivering services where they are best placed to achieve the desired outcomes.
- 3.4 Ensure transparency by setting out clear procedures for accessing different funding sources and provide a clear rationale for all funding decisions.
- 3.5 Commit to multi-year funding where appropriate and where it adds value for money. The funding term should reflect the time it will take to deliver the outcome. If multi-year funding is not considered to be the best way of delivering the objective, explain the reasons for the decision.
- 3.6 Ensure well managed and transparent application and tendering processes with clear eligibility criteria which are proportionate to the desired objectives and outcomes of programmes.
- 3.7 Agree with VCS organisations how outcomes, including the social, environmental or economic value, will be monitored before a contract or funding agreement is made.
- 3.8 Ensure that monitoring and reporting is relevant and proportionate to the nature and size of the opportunity. Be clear about what information is being asked for, and why and how it will be used.
- 3.9 Ensure equal treatment across sectors, including reporting and monitoring arrangements, when tendering for contracts.
- 3.10 Recognise when VCS organisations apply for a grant they can include appropriate and relevant overheads, including costs associated with training and volunteer involvement.

Commitments for the VCS

- 3.11 Ensure eligibility for funding before applying and be explicit about how outcomes will be achieved.
- 3.12 Ensure robust governance arrangements so that organisations can best manage any risk associated with service delivery and financing models, including giving funders early notice of significant changes in circumstances.

- 3.13 Be open and transparent about reporting, recognising that monitoring, whether internal or external, is an aspect of good management practice.
- 3.14 Demonstrate the social, environmental or economic value of the programmes and services provided, where appropriate.
- 3.15 Help facilitate feedback from users and communities to Havering Council and its partners to help improve delivery of programmes and services.
- 3.16 Recognise that Havering Council and its partners can legitimately expect VCS organisations to give public recognition of their funding.
- 3.17 Take active steps to develop sustainable funding models, proactively identifying and seeking to secure new funding streams and methods of generating income outside of the Council and its partners.
- 3.18 Work proactively and constructively together to form appropriate consortia, where this makes sense, and particularly to enable smaller organisations to become involved in bidding for funding and contracts.

4 Clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services

Commitments for Havering Council and Partners in Havering

- 4.1 If a programme or service is encountering problems, agree with the VCS organisation a timetable of actions to improve performance before making a decision to end a financial relationship.
- 4.2 Assess the impact on beneficiaries, service users, carers and volunteers before deciding to reduce or end funding. Assess the need to re-allocate funds to another organisation serving the same group.
- 4.3 Where there are restrictions on future resources, discuss the potential implications as early as possible with VCS organisations, give organisations the opportunity to respond, and consider the response fully, respecting sector expertise, before making a final decision.
- 4.4 Give a minimum of three months' notice in writing ending a funding relationship, allowing time for the organisation to meet all legal and HR obligations. If this standard cannot be met due to exceptional circumstances, a clear rationale for why an alternative decision has been taken must be provided.

Commitments for the VCS

- 4.5 To take into consideration public sector budgetary constraints when the VCS is looking to meet their future needs and choices.
- 4.6 Plan for the end of funding to manage any potential impact on beneficiaries and the organisation.
- 4.7 Contribute positively to reviews of programmes or services to inform future practice.

- 4.8 Advise Havering Council and partners of any social, environmental or economic impact of funding changes and on ways to minimise their effects on people in vulnerable situations.

5 An equal and fair society

Commitments for Havering Council and Partners

- 5.1 Work with VCS organisations that represent, support or provide services to people with characteristics specifically protected by legislation and other under-represented and disadvantaged groups. To understand the specific needs of these groups by actively seeking the views of service users and clients. Take these views into account, including assessing impact when designing and implementing policies, programmes and services.
- 5.2 Acknowledge that organisations representing specific disadvantaged or under-represented group(s) can help promote social and community cohesion and should have equal access to statutory funding.
- 5.3 Take practical action to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality and to ensure a voice for under-represented and disadvantaged groups.

Commitments for the VCS

- 5.4 If receiving funding from statutory partners, show how the value of the work can help that body deliver its public sector duties on promoting equality and tackling discrimination.
- 5.5 Take practical action, such as through funding bids and the delivery of services, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and build stronger communities.