



## **COMPACT**

### **Code of good practice on Community groups and Black and Minority Ethnic Groups**

Moorlands Together Compact is an agreement between Voluntary and Community groups in the Staffordshire Moorlands and Statutory partners. It is supported by the Local Strategic Partnership and aims to improve working relationships for the benefit of the community we all serve.

This Code of Good Practice supports and complements the Compact and it's 'way of working' in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

## **Undertakings.**

**All** partners undertake to:

- Work in partnership, together to improve public perception of community groups' contribution to the Moorlands community.
- Adopt jointly, clear policies regarding 'full cost recovery' when completing and considering community group applications for funding or other support.
- Make visible the value of the community groups' contribution to our community, by the use of publications and the wider media.
- Work together to create and maintain a modern and dynamic community support infrastructure in which groups are encouraged to participate fully.

**Statutory** partners undertake to:

- Consult, through the Local Strategic Partnership, with community organisations, so that policies and planning in all areas, takes account of local groups views and their knowledge of their community.
- Work to reduce barriers to community group activity, which result from the policy and planning decisions they make.
- Recognise the legitimacy of community groups, when they include the 'full cost recovery' principles in relevant funding applications.
- Recognise that community groups and organisations have independence within our community which must be nurtured and respected.
- Adopt effective policies to ensure that all relevant community activity has realistic and appropriate long term funding.

**Voluntary and Infrastructure organisations** and sector partners undertake to:

- Promote effective community action and ensure it is inclusive to all members of our community.
- Include, the 'full cost recovery principle' in all relevant funding bids.
- Involve all community group members in all decision-making processes and keep them informed of all developments affecting the group and its contribution to the community as a whole.
- Being a strong responsible and respected voice for community cohesion and support community groups when working to bring partners together for mutual benefit
- Promote the concept of the 'Compact way of working' and its relevance in the community.

### **Who does the Code apply to?**

This Code of Good Practice applies to all signatories of the Moorlands Together Compact.

It is endorsed by the Moorlands Together Local Strategic Partnership.

### **Understanding Community groups.**

- Community groups are the eyes and ears of our community. Their members reflect the diversity of our community and their community knowledge is a vital and unique resource to those who serve it. Their members freely undertake activity to support the wider community, most often without any personal financial gain. They are the true image of the citizen.

### **The importance of Voluntary and Community groups.**

- Community groups are a powerful force for improvement and development. They support the wider community in a wide range of ways, often applying their unique knowledge of the community in which they live. Volunteers work, selflessly, to provide support, expertise and innovation to any community group, enhancing impact and value.
- All decision makers need to be aware of the ways that their decisions and actions affect voluntary and community groups and their activities. They should aim to consult before making decisions and actively show their commitment to the 'Compact way of working'
- **All partners will** promote partnership working and commit to the 'full cost recovery' principles specified in the Funding and Procurement Code which is part of the Moorlands Together Compact, along with this and other Codes.

#### **Statutory partners will.**

- Consult in line with the Code of Practice on Consultation within this Compact, and take account of the way their decisions may affect community groups. Work to remove barriers to community support within their existing policies and procedures. They will recognise that it is legitimate for voluntary and community partners to include full cost recovery in their applications, where appropriate.

### **Valuing Community group Contributions.**

- Community groups make a significant contribution to the Staffordshire Moorlands community. They have unique knowledge of our community and can articulate and highlight unmet needs in our community and actively promote the improvement of the needs provision in the Staffordshire Moorlands to the benefit of all citizens. Their contribution and the added value it brings, should be recognised, listened to and celebrated.

### **All partners will develop, promote and celebrate voluntary and community groups.**

- Keep good data on voluntary and community group activity.
- Recognise the need to support, and resource voluntary and community activity, building the resources needed into all decisions on policy and procedures where it is appropriate to do so.

### **Voluntary and Community Infrastructure.**

- The voluntary and community infrastructure is the physical facilities, structures, systems, relationships and people that exist to support, develop and represent those front line organisations who deliver support to our community. They work to develop and regenerate their local community.

### **Black and Ethnic Minority Groups.**

- This Compact recognises the unique place BME groups hold in our Community. Statutory and Infrastructure partners will work to include the unique needs of these groups, in addition to all the points made in this Community Code and others. BME groups will be able to access, with support from statutory partners, any and all additional support aids they may need to fully contribute to our community diversity and richness. They are all welcome as citizens of the Staffordshire Moorlands.

### **Taking the Code forward.**

#### **All partners will put this Code into practice.**

- They will promote community support groups at every opportunity and appoint a 'Community Champion' within their respective organisations.
- The Local Strategic Partnership will adopt this code alongside the Compact for the Moorlands and ensure it is reviewed annually by the Compact Implementation Group, seeking to measure the progress of its implementation. They will receive and implement each annual review.