






The busy person's guide to

# Wolverhampton Compact

The **Wolverhampton Compact** is an award winning local agreement between the public sector and voluntary and community sectors in **Wolverhampton**. It sets out how the two partners should work together for the greater good of the **City**.

## WHAT CAN **WOLVERHAMPTON COMPACT** DO FOR YOU?

-  Improve your relationship with the public or voluntary and community sector.
-  Help create better outcomes for the people you support.
-  Provide a mediation procedure in the event of disputes.
-  Make your funding arrangements clear and fair.
-  Save you money and time.



# Summary of Principles

The statutory, voluntary and community sectors have signed up to agree:

- To acknowledge the contribution and independence of Wolverhampton's diverse organisations and to work to build mutual respect and understanding.
- To build relationships that are fair, honest and open.
- To work to improve communication between the sectors.
- To work to improve consultation and engagement between and within the sectors.
- That resource allocation should be made against open, transparent and consistent criteria with jointly agreed outcomes and monitoring.
- That funding processes will accommodate different capacity issues.
- To work together to develop and support the voluntary and community sector infrastructure.
- To observe the principles of the Nolan Committee's Standards of Public Life.
- To strive to ensure that these principles take into account concerns expressed by underrepresented people.
- To recognise that misunderstandings and mistakes will occur but that we will work together to resolve any issues.

*Wolverhampton Compact includes Codes of Practice by which the public and voluntary and community sectors agree to abide. Read the summaries below to see which Codes might be relevant for you. You can find the full documents on the Wolverhampton Compact website [www.wolverhamptonvsc.co.uk](http://www.wolverhamptonvsc.co.uk)*

## Codes of Good Practice

### 1 Black and Minority Ethnic Community Organisations

This code aims to ensure that the City values the role of the BME sector and the important role that it plays in bringing a distinctive value to the City enabling BME individuals, groups and communities to contribute to public life and to support the creation of a more cohesive and inclusive civil society. It aims to challenge and resolve all unlawful discrimination.

### 2 Community Groups

This code recognises that very small community groups, often working in isolation, need an additional voice as they are often unsupported and underrepresented. It is for anyone who is a member of a community group or wishes to engage with such groups.

### 3 Consultation and Policy Appraisal Code of Practice

This code ensures that policy development in Wolverhampton combines the expertise of both the public and voluntary and community sectors. It is important for anyone affected by or planning engagement, consultation and policy development.

### 4 Equality and Diversity

This code aims to challenge and resolve all unlawful discrimination by recognising that equality is an issue for all. It promotes an environment that encourages equality and diversity and that values the contribution that all members of the community bring to civil and civic society.

### 5 Funding, Commissioning and Procurement

This code aims to set out a minimum standard for groups and organisations that are involved in spending public funds; clarify the funding relationship between statutory and voluntary and community sectors and to be used as a framework for the future development of processes and procedures that support well-delivered programmes and services.

### 6 Volunteering

This code aims to set out how both sectors work together to support and promote volunteering; including tackling barriers to volunteering. It is useful for volunteers, organisations working with volunteers and those encouraging people to volunteer.

# Mediation and **Dispute Resolution**

## Stage 1

This stage is to provide clarity about the issue and to seek the best way forward:

Raise your concern with the group you have the issue with, in the way you feel most appropriate, stating clearly what your concerns are.

Raise your concern with a Compact Champion, Officer or Monitoring and Implementation Group (MAIG) member.

## Stage 2

If the issue is not resolved:

Raise the issue more formally for the MAIG or a sub-group to discuss and they will hope to suggest a potential resolution. This may include requesting paperwork from the parties involved in the issue.

## Stage 3

Seek formal mediation from the Wolverhampton Compact Mediation Service.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Wolverhampton  
Voluntary Sector  
Council  
co-ordinates the  
Compact Mediation  
Service.

Please contact:  
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VCS Compact  
Worker.

Full details about the Wolverhampton Compact can be found at  
**[www.wolverhamptoncompact.co.uk](http://www.wolverhamptoncompact.co.uk)**