

# The Warwickshire Compact Commitments

## 1. A strong, diverse and independent voluntary and community sector

### Undertakings for public agencies:

**1.1** Respect and uphold the independence of voluntary and community organisations, including their right to campaign, regardless of any relationship, financial or otherwise, which may exist.

**1.2** Endeavour to explore opportunities where voluntary and community organisations can support the delivery of local priorities and services and to ensure that organisations are resourced reasonably and fairly where they are supporting the delivery of public services.

**1.3** Recognise the need to resource services to assist front-line voluntary and community organisations with their capacity and capability to deliver positive outcomes and to access, deliver and manage public sector contracts.

**1.4** Make data and information more accessible to help voluntary and community organisations challenge existing provision of services, access new markets and hold public agencies to account.

**1.5** Consider a range of ways to support voluntary and community organisations, including the transfer of public assets into community ownership.

**1.6** Encourage feedback from a range of sources on the effectiveness of local partnership working between public agencies and voluntary and community organisations.

### Undertakings for voluntary and community organisations:

**1.7** Aim to be transparent and open about plans and activities.

**1.8** When campaigning or advocating, ensure that robust evidence is provided, including information about the source and range of people and communities represented.

**1.9** Aim to ensure their independence is upheld, focusing on the cause represented, regardless of any relationship they have with local public agencies, financial or otherwise.

**1.10** Voluntary sector support services will:

- work in partnership with public agencies to ensure information is widely distributed to voluntary and community organisations and targeted where appropriate
- work collaboratively with other voluntary sector support services to ensure the best use of resources
- work at all times in the best interests of front-line voluntary and community organisations
- ensure, wherever possible, that responses to consultations are informed by the views of front-line voluntary and community organisations and that front-line organisations have the opportunity to comment directly themselves
- provide opportunities for liaison between public agencies and voluntary organisations
- ensure the representation of voluntary and community sector interests on strategic partnerships
- provide notification in advance of publishing material critical of any local public agency
- provide support to front-line voluntary organisations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.