

A Framework for Collaboration with Nottingham's Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector

This framework is designed to celebrate the key strengths of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) and make recommendations to support the effective planning, commissioning and delivery of services across the city.

The VCSE has a key role to play in supporting a vision to create a vibrant, diverse, safe and healthy city which takes care of its residents and supports people to look after themselves and make healthy choices. A city where people from all walks of life get on well and respect each other, where there are opportunities for everyone and where people are encouraged to prosper, be ambitious and reach their full potential.

Nottingham enjoys a vibrant VCSE with groups involved in a huge range of activities: working

holistically with children and families, providing advice, social care and housing, running transport services, conserving the environment and our heritage, supporting victims of crime, providing learning skills and employment programmes and delivering activities and services to support the health, wellbeing and resilience of the residents of Nottingham.

The relationship between the VCSE and our public and private sector partners is a crucial one that can help create a prosperous and thriving city that is also inclusive.

Embedding Systems Change in Commissioning Processes

The VCSE is a major provider of preventative and crisis services across the city, supporting residents to live more productive, healthier, happier, greener lives.

- VCSE involvement in the co-design of commissioned services from the start.
- Holding decision makers to account through the use of independent and robust Equality Impact Assessments that are meaningful.
- Inclusive procurement processes using the principles of equity and proportionality.
- Investing in local VCSE expertise and experience, making local VCSE the first choice for commissioners.
- Recognising the added value of the inward investment the VCSE attracts.
- Maximising our social impact that will be reinvested directly into communities, driving continuous improvement.
- Letting longer term contracts and allowing for full cost recovery.

Communication and Consultation

Good quality communication with voluntary and community groups is essential to ensuring that we make the best use of limited resources in the city through policy making and budget decisions.

- Partners publish a consultation timetable to maximise community input.
- Ensures local VCSE representation on all strategic boards.
- Supports the continuation of key local VCSE networks.
- Develops the Nottingham Plan in partnership with the local VCSE.
- Uses local VCSE communications networks to make key announcements.
- Recognises and values the independence of the local VCSE.

A thriving local VCSE equals a thriving city. We call on our public and private sector partners to support this Framework for Collaboration with the VCSE and to work alongside the VCSE to implement the recommendations. If you would like to know more about this framework or to get involved in the conversation, please email ncvs@nottinghamcvs.co.uk.