

Sutton Voluntary Sector Manifesto - May 2014

This manifesto was developed by Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector (SCVS) in April 2014, in consultation with voluntary organisations in the London Borough of Sutton.

It outlines what the sector believes should be some of the key principles underpinning the relationship between voluntary organisations and Sutton Council which we would like all prospective Councillors to endorse in May 2014.

The Voluntary Sector is committed to working closely with our statutory partners to make sure that together we can best meet the needs of the borough's residents.

Key messages

1. Working closely together
2. Opportunities and funding for Sutton's Voluntary Sector
3. Championing volunteering

1. Working closely together

- Maintain and build upon what is already a good relationship between the Council and the Voluntary Sector in Sutton.
- Recognise voluntary organisations not only as providers of services, but also as community representatives with a wide range of expertise that can add real value to the role of the council.
- Communicate and engage more with the voluntary sector, especially those Members with specific portfolios.
- Maintain the role of Lead Councillor for the Voluntary Sector as it has demonstrated significant benefits.
- Consistently embed the principles and ways of working set out in the Sutton Compact across the Council.
- Make the most of the significant opportunities to share resources and expertise across the Council and the voluntary sector to the benefit of the whole community.

2. Opportunities and funding for Sutton's Voluntary Sector

- Involve the voluntary sector and users and carers at an early stage in commissioning processes to benefit from the co-design and co-production of services.
- Ensure that all commissioning processes are consistent, accountable, transparent and open.
- Build on the work to recognise the considerable assets and social value that the voluntary sector brings to commissioned work, which support the goals of the Council and enhance the local community.
- Further embed joint planning and commissioning to join up services and achieve better outcomes for residents, as has been the case with recent joint working on children and young people's mental health.
- Give an ongoing commitment to supporting and funding the Sutton Community Fund.
- Consider some grant funding for the third sector. This would enable small organisations to better tackle local needs and make a measureable difference, as well as pilot more innovative, community led services and initiatives.
- Make a commitment to long-term funding wherever possible - this enables voluntary organisations to plan effectively, and target their limited resources and capacity on making a difference to local people rather than searching for funding.

3. Championing volunteering

- Champion volunteering and the benefits it brings to Sutton's residents, communities, economy and the environment. Encourage the continuous growth of volunteering, and engage with the sector to develop opportunities for both Councillors and officers to volunteer.
- Acknowledge that volunteering is about individuals receiving as well as giving, and requires resourcing to ensure that it is safe and effective. Make sure that we work together at every opportunity to thank all those giving their time by volunteering in our community.
- Recognise the depth and breadth of volunteering in Sutton and the rich heritage it has, as well as responding to new and innovative developments in volunteering, that are inspiring a new generation of volunteers.