



Knowsley
BETTER
TOGETHER

Knowsley Council's Deal
with the Social Sector

June 2017

KNOWSLEY BETTER TOGETHER

- Knowsley Council's Deal with the Social Sector

Foreword

Knowsley Council is currently establishing "Knowsley Better Together." This broad approach recognises that stakeholders need to work together in order to achieve our shared outcomes. The Council has responded to this in its new Corporate Plan. The plan outlines "what" the Council hopes to achieve in the coming years and also describes "how" it needs to work to get things done.

These seven principles form the basis of our relationship with our partners and other stakeholders including Social Sector partners.

Over the past year the Council and Knowsley Community and Voluntary Services have been leading a process of engagement with the Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (Social Sector) to talk about what this means for how we work together in the future to achieve our joint aims and aspirations.

This document is our shared agreement for how Knowsley Council and the Social Sector in Knowsley will work together to secure the best possible outcomes for the residents of Knowsley.

It demonstrates our commitment to work together within co-operative principles to drive forward our shared commitment to Knowsley. Working together we want to secure the positive outcomes that can be achieved through effective partnerships between the public and social sector:

- A strong, diverse and independent community
- Effective and transparent design and implementation of policies, programmes and public services
- Responsive and high quality programmes and services
- Clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services
- An equal and fair society

Foremost, together, we want to secure specific additional outcomes for Knowsley:

- Maximise the contribution to education
- Maximise the contribution to health and wellbeing of Knowsley residents
- High quality and sustainable Adult Social Care
- Business growth, jobs and new housing; and
- A sustainable Borough

To support the implementation of this way of working, Knowsley Council has established a Social Sector Fund of £1m which is designed to enable an increased contribution from the Sector to the Council's priorities.



Councillor Andy Moorhead
Leader of Knowsley
Council



David Parr
Chair of the Board
Knowsley Community and
Voluntary Services

Signatories

On behalf of Knowsley Council and the Social Sector, the following people have been highly instrumental in the development of this Deal from its inception and formally resolve to adopt this as our preferred way of working:

Councillor Andy Moorhead
Leader of Knowsley Council

David Parr
Chair of the Board
Knowsley Community and Voluntary Services

Purpose of the Agreement

Knowsley Council and its partners have ambitious plans for the Borough. The Council has recognised that it has to work together with partners in order to achieve its objectives

The purpose of the Agreement is to outline how the Council and the Social Sector will work together for the benefit of the Borough

To support the implementation of the agreement the Council has established a £1m Social Sector Fund to promote the contribution of the Sector

Knowsley Council's Plan is centred around five delivery priorities for 2017-2020:

- Maximise the Council's contribution to education in Knowsley
- Maximise the Council's contribution to the health and wellbeing of Knowsley residents
- Provide high quality and sustainable Adult Social Care
- Accelerate business growth, new jobs and new housing; and,
- Create a sustainable Borough

Our Joint Commitment

Knowsley Council and the Social Sector will:

- **B**e open, transparent and promote equality and fairness within our relationship and throughout our practice with shared accountability to each other and to our communities in Knowsley
- **I**nnovate to co-design and co-produce new solutions to the needs and opportunities within our Knowsley communities
- **A**cknowledge and respect the range of external statutory regulation that we are all subject to and work within our partnership to drive our commitment to excellent practice, acknowledging and respecting the limitations that external regulation can create
- **A**cknowledge and constructively address real or perceived barriers to our relationship, including but not limited to differences in intentions, terminology used and the governance frameworks and standards we operate within
- **R**ecognise the financial constraints we are all working within
- **S**trive to build the value of the Knowsley pound, social capital and social value as equal, meaningful and important local economic drivers
- **R**ecognise and value our shared leadership roles and contributions to support our community
- **T**ake shared responsibility to seek to support the Social Sector in ways other than funding, recognising this responsibility and offer will differ between partners

Securing Our Partnership

Social Sector (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise)

We will work within our social missions:

- With commitment to Knowsley
- Share our impact to communicate our success with each other and others
- Continually build trust and confidence through openness and accountability
- Recognise our complexity
- Campaign with confidence and legitimacy to use our expertise responsibly
- Harness the power of our critical mass through the skills, knowledge, experience and resources we hold
- Raise awareness and offer solutions

We will use our reach into and across Knowsley communities to facilitate feedback from members of the community to help improve the delivery of programmes and services. We will ensure that consultation responses accurately reflect the views and experiences of users / communities

We will share knowledge based on our experience and information available to us to help shape and inform any analysis of the needs of communities to enable the appropriate allocation of resources

We will work together and with the public sector to develop, and deliver, appropriate services within the context of available resources

We will provide opportunities for good quality volunteering experiences in Knowsley. We will celebrate the value of volunteers

Knowsley Council

We will work within our principles:

- Be a community leader and always champion Knowsley
- Build better partnerships and work together cooperatively
- Listen to the community when making decisions
- Spend locally, invest locally and recruit locally
- Help people to be independent and to do more for themselves and each other
- Prevent problems occurring or stop them getting worse
- Use the best way of delivering services that leads to improved outcomes for Knowsley

We will change our internal processes (including commissioning and procurement) to enable greater participation by the Sector

We will forward plan and market our intentions to the Sector to enable the Sector to do likewise in order to retain skills and expertise in local organisations

We will speak with the sector when we develop policy and strategy

We will listen, co-design, co-produce and innovate by valuing the skills and expertise that exists in the Knowsley community

We will work together to grow our social value

Next Steps

The work of the Council and Knowsley Community and Voluntary Services (on behalf of the Sector) during the past year has resulted in the production of this Agreement.

This Agreement is a starting point, not a conclusion. The future success of the Council and the Sector is dependent on the commitment and support of all parties.

The next steps include:

1. Both parties will raise awareness of the Agreement within the Sector and within the Council, in particular within commissioning teams
2. The Council will establish a £1m fund that will be exclusively spent within the Social Sector to enable the Sector to make a direct contribution to the Council's priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan
3. The Council and Knowsley Community and Voluntary Services will work with other public sector agencies to promote the benefits of this approach
4. The Council and Knowsley Community and Voluntary Services will work together to market and promote the intended way of working
5. The Council and Knowsley Community and Voluntary Services will review how this agreement has been embedded and will evaluate the impact of this way of working

Contacts

For further information or comments on this agreement, please contact:

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