



THE VSI CHARTER FOR ORGANISATIONAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We trust you will see this Charter as a commitment to working together to improve the sustainability and development of voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in Calderdale. Together we can share comprehensive knowledge of the VCSE sector across Calderdale and help to make the very best use of resources and of development opportunities. Working collaboratively we can enable the VCSE Sector to thrive in a challenging landscape and influence decision makers.

What we will do:

- Provide timely support/guidance regarding the development and governance of your organisation
- Give access to tailored funding reports and support on income generation specific to your organisation
- Provide specialised support as available from VSI Alliance Partner Organisations in key areas including governance, income generation, organisation development, finance, asset transfer, engagement, safeguarding, volunteering and quality standards
- Provide opportunities to develop your organisations standards
- Work collaboratively with you to feed into local, regional and national consultations/surveys and have your collective voice heard
- We will be honest and transparent in our communications with you

What we need from you:

- Comprehensive information about your organisation on matters including governance, finance and activities
- Honesty and transparency in your communications with us
- A commitment to engage in events/consultations and collaborative working.

Commitment to all aspects of this Charter can ensure:

- Collaboratively involving individuals and communities in defining issues and providing solutions to influence statutory agencies, leading to better outcomes and best use of resources. We recognise that the quality of life in a community (its level of social capital) and the level of involvement of individuals as residents, volunteers or workers, have a marked impact on health and life expectancy.
- Working with communities of geography, interest and identity will support both commissioners and providers by encouraging co-production, increasing agency autonomy, and improving sustainability.
- We can jointly analyse, plan and access the necessary resources and support that could help alleviate the impact on financial challenges and changes in services.
- The VCSE Sector will collaboratively identify their own needs and aspirations, whilst taking action to exert influence on the decisions which affect the lives of the communities they serve. We acknowledge and champion there is a greater need for the communities we serve to improve the quality of their own lives, the communities in which they live, and communities of interest of which they are a part.
- By developing our local knowledge of strengths and gaps in the locality, co-production between communities and service providers will thrive. As a result, communities will be more empowered to become leading players in their own interests.



About the VSI Alliance

Calderdale Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support Service (VSI Alliance) is a partnership between six organisations, made up of four providers and two commissioning bodies, working together and sharing skills to benefit voluntary & community sector groups and social enterprises (VCSE) working in Calderdale:

- Voluntary & Community (VAC)
- Forum (North Bank Forum)
- West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service (WYCAS)
- Locality
- West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Group
- Calderdale Council

What we offer

Through a single point of contact, VCSE groups and organisations working in Calderdale have access to a range of tailored support services, training and advice, covering:

- Organisational development support
- Social enterprise, business development and asset transfer
- Governance
- All aspects of establishing a new group or organisation
- Quality assurance including Quality 4 Health and Wellbeing
- Safeguarding support
- Fundraising and income generation
- Partnership working
- Specialist financial advice and services
- Volunteering brokerage and development
- Engagement Champions
- Voice and representation of the VCS sector

For further help and support, please contact your support officer or email info@vsialliance.org.uk or call 01422 348777

The Alliance is based at the following address:

c/o VAC, Resource Centre, Hall Street, Halifax, HX1 5AY