

Bolsover District Community Sector Forum (CVP Action Group)

Aims, objectives & terms of reference

1. Introduction

The Community Sector Forum (CVP Action Group) will be a membership-led organisation open to all community organisations/groups operating in the Bolsover District. It will provide a space for these organisations to meet and exchange information, ideas and good practice. The CVP Action Group will work to strengthen the community sector within the Bolsover District and to develop a cohesive and articulate community sector body, in a climate of equal partnership with statutory agencies.

2. Aims

To bring together people from the community sector operating in the Bolsover District to share skills, information, experiences, good practice, and resources and to work collectively on issues of common interest as identified by the members of the CVP Action Group.

To campaign, promote and develop new ways of communicating and working with public and private sector agencies, which ensures that the collective views of the community sector are considered, influence and affect planning and policy decisions.

3. Objectives

- Enable the sharing of experiences, good practice, skills and resources and to provide a platform for organisations to raise issues and gain mutual support.
- Build the capacity of the community sector to work together on common and minority issues, to learn from each other, and to work to ensure that the necessary policies and resources are developed to facilitate good practice.
- Develop collective views and promote the interests of the community sector in Bolsover District.
- Provide, disseminate and share information in accessible forms.
- Support and develop networks within the community sector.
- Ensure that the strengths, needs and potential of the voluntary sector are made known to public, private and voluntary agencies.
- Work in partnership with the public and private sectors, promoting dialogue and good relationships across the sectors.

- To support the development and implementation of the Community Groups code and action plan of the local Compact.
- Provide accountable representation and active participation on relevant strategic partnerships.

4. Values

- The CVP Action Group will undertake creative positive action to improve the position of people within the community sector who are marginalised and who experience oppression.
- The CVP Action Group will support and be accountable to the community sector and will clearly explain the mechanisms in place.
- The CVP Action Group will work towards meeting its aims through co-operation, collaboration and partnership.
- The CVP Action Group will be non-party political.
- The CVP Action Group will be committed to equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice.

5. Membership

Membership will be open to any community organisation/group working in the Bolsover District. Voting rights will be equal. Each organisation/group will have one vote.

6. Ways of working

The CVP Action Group will work with people from the community sector in ways which aim to help them have a greater influence over the decisions that affect their lives and to come together with others to devise solutions to common problems.

The CVP Action Group will work on the basis that collective action is more influential than a series of single voices and that cooperation between people generates a shared strength through the pooling of energy, ideas and resources.

Not less than 4 meetings per year, arranged to precede meetings of the Local Strategic Partnership where possible. Other meetings as necessary, or when requested by the membership.

Meetings of sub-groups and networks to be arranged by the CVP Action Group members

The Chair of the CVP Action Group will be elected annually by the action group members and will be supported by CVP.

Community Voluntary Partners will provide the administration of the CVP Action Group and will prepare agendas in liaison with the CVP Action Group members.