

Protocol for Joint Working – Third Sector and Council

Fairness – all organisations will conduct themselves in a considerate manner and should ensure that they have policies in place which set out clear expectations of employees when carrying out their role.

Mutual Respect – there will be mutual respect between all organisations in terms of the services they provide and the people that they provide services to.

Transparency - subject to any legal restriction on the ability to share information all organisations will be open and transparent in relation to the reasons for decisions reached about services being provided under a contractual and/or partnership agreement which may impact on the other party. If, for any reason timescales for an expected decision are not met, the reason for this will be communicated clearly with a revised timescale agreed between both parties.

Accountability – all organisations will be accountable for their actions in relation to the services they are providing and decisions which are reached about those services. Organisations should have appropriate policies in place which makes clear the expectations of employees in relation to their individual roles and responsibilities.

Challenge – the council actively encourages questions, comments, feedback from third sector partners on its services and accepts that on occasion these may be critical of decisions taken. Partners should feel free to do this constructively without affecting any current or future working or funding relationships.