

# Slough Compact Protocols

## Volunteering

Volunteers are an essential part of the well being of any community and they make a vital contribution to service delivery.

All organisations in Slough (voluntary, statutory and private) recognise the value and celebrate the contribution of volunteers to the economic and social development of the town.

### **There is common agreement that all partners will:**

- work to ensure volunteering is open and accessible to everyone and remove barriers to volunteering opportunities such as gender, age, qualifications, race, religion and sexual orientation.
- actively work to ensure that there are diverse roles and opportunities available to volunteers.
- provide an adequate and reasonable period of consultation specific to volunteering which may need to be over and above that listed in the consultation code of practice in order to allow volunteers time to respond to a changing situation.
- actively work to encourage volunteering whilst recognising and respecting that volunteering is a free choice.
- endeavour to ensure that volunteers are representative of Slough's diverse community.
- undertake to ensure that volunteers are not used as a substitute for any paid role.
- ensure that volunteers have clearly defined role and job descriptions and that the health and safety of volunteers and end users is secured.
- work towards volunteers not being out of pocket because of their volunteering activity.
- recognise the need for a local volunteering infrastructure.

**There is also common agreement that:**

- volunteers should be made welcome and treated as an integral part of their organisation and given the same treatment as salaried staff such as induction training, participation in team meetings, involvement in social events.
- funding bodies should accept that volunteer's expenses are a legitimate cost.
- volunteers should be given sufficient and appropriate resources in order to fulfil their role and to encourage their continual involvement in volunteering.