

Sunderland Compact: Disability Code of Practice

Introduction

The Sunderland Compact provides a framework for partnership working between voluntary and community sector organisations and the Sunderland Partnership. The Compact recognises the complementary role and diversity of organisations across the Voluntary and Community sector.

We recognise that Disability takes many forms. This Code will help to ensure that disability equality and best practice is followed and promoted by all signatories to the Compact.

Definition of Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995 and amendments) says a disabled person is someone with 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'

Explanations of:

Impairment – the definition covers physical and mental impairments. These include:

- Physical impairments affecting the senses, such as sight and hearing
- Mental impairments including learning disabilities and mental illness
- Memory and ability to concentrate, learn or understand

Substantial – for an effect to be substantial, it must be more than minor

Long Term – These are effects that:

- Have lasted at least 12 months or
- Are likely to last at least 12 months or
- Are likely to last for the rest of the life of the person affected

Day to day activities – are normal activities carried out by most people on a regular basis?

Aims of the Disability Code of Practice

All Organisations of the Sunderland Partnership and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in Sunderland are connected to:

1. The promotion of disability equality and best practice.
2. Identify and respond to specific requirements of disabled people and disability groups.

Joint Commitments

The organisations of the Sunderland Partnership and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in Sunderland commit to ensure disabled people are involved in the design, development and management of services. Organisations have agreed to:

1. Champion the Disability Code of Practice, raise its awareness and promote the aims and commitments;
2. Work in partnership to ensure that policies and strategies address disability equality issues and promote disability equality;
3. Ensure that the development of voluntary and community organisations facilitate participation by disabled people;
4. Recognise and take action on practices, attitudes and behaviour which amount to discrimination of disabled people;
5. During consultation seek views from as wide a range and varied a representation of disabilities as possible;
6. Ensure that information, publicity and documents are up to date and can be made available in formats appropriate for disabled people;
7. Ensure that organisations/services are adequately funded so that services provided are fully accessible;
8. Ensure staff and volunteers have adequate disability awareness training;

Voluntary and Community Sector Commitments

All commitments are included in Joint Commitments.

Commitments of Organisations of the Sunderland Partnership

All commitments are included in Joint Commitments.

Monitoring and Review

The COP for Disability will be monitored and reviewed in line with the main Compact.

Code of Practice Compliance

Compliance issues on the COP for Disability will follow the procedure set out in the main Compact.