Becoming a Member

Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) is a local independent charity offering support, information and advice to voluntary and community groups.

As part of our Membership we ask organisations to commit to agreeing with our Mission, Values and Objects.

Mission

SCVO will support Voluntary and Community Organisations to grow and develop, and support the sector to forge strong links with communities and partners.

Values

- **Openness** - we will be open and transparent in the way we work, internally and externally, communicating clearly and effectively.
- **Equality** - Sandwell is a diverse place, with a wide range of communities of interest, ethnicity and belief. We believe no person or group should suffer oppression or lack of opportunity; our support and services will be accessible to all.
- **Outcome-focussed** - We will focus our organisational efforts on clearly stating our mission and vision, and making this a reality through our work with the Voluntary and Community Sector. We will work proactively to build partnerships and coalitions which help us to do this.
- **Listening and Innovating** - We will listen to needs and aspirations of all our stakeholders. We will respond with innovative ways of meeting their aspirations.
- **Professionalism** - We believe that the Voluntary and Community Sector is professional and capable as any other sector. Our staff and volunteers will embody the highest standards of knowledge, capability and responsibility, and we will equip our staff with the best possible tools, resources and working environment to do this
- **Enabling** - We will be positive problem solvers, prepared to share our knowledge and resources to support organisations to achieve shared objectives.
- **Independence** - Our overriding priority will be to serve the interests of the Voluntary and Community Sector, and stand up for its independence of action and expression.

Criteria

Membership is free of charge, permanent until either the Member or SCVO determine otherwise. It is open to groups which are:

- Registered as a charity, or
- A community-focused, formalised (constituted) body, whether incorporated or not, that is wholly not-for-profit or does not distribute profits for personal or private gain.
- Have a Board or Management Committee comprising of a minimum of 3 members who give their time in a voluntary (non-paid) capacity. If this Committee is not locally based, the organisation should demonstrate its long term commitment to Sandwell.
- Can evidence that they are actively delivering services in Sandwell and committed to investing surplus and resources into Sandwell.

Membership Agreement

By becoming a Member of SCVO, **organisations commit to**:-

- Support and mandate SCVO to engage public bodies and speak on behalf of the wider sector
- Share information on their capacity, capability and local need with SCVO to support its lobbying and championing role
- Constructive engagement with public sector partners
- Honest engagement and sharing knowledge and good practice with peers within the Sector
- Active involvement where SCVO brings the Sector together, particularly at General Meetings and the AGM

SCVO Commits to:-

- Secure resources to offer a range of quality capacity-building services for the Sector
- Lobby and work on behalf of the whole Sector to improve the local environment for Voluntary and Community Organisations
- Provide member-only services where possible
- Offer members an opportunity to attend, nominate proxies, speak and vote at General Meetings and opportunity to serve on SCVO's Board

Membership Support Offer

- Access to discounted rates at selected events and training.
- Access to member-only promotions and support when available
- Promotion of room or venue space you have on our website.
- Reduced rates for room bookings at SCVO