

## Volunteering Code

### Introduction

Both Government and the voluntary and community sector recognise the value of volunteering – volunteering is a freely given commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community. The unique contribution of volunteers adds value to service delivery. Government and the sector want to increase the pool of volunteers, and to recruit more volunteers from under represented sections of the community. The Code sets out undertakings to enable more people to become involved in varied forms of voluntary activity and offer them the necessary support.

### Key Principles

Government departments including Executive Agencies and other decision makers, including VCS organisations need to consider the possible impact of their decisions on volunteers. When doing this they should support these four principles of volunteering:

- Volunteering must be the result of a free choice by the volunteer
- Volunteering must be open to everyone
- Volunteers must receive some benefits to make their contribution worthwhile
- Volunteers must be publicly recognised

### Government undertakes to

- Check all proposed legislation and regulations for potential impacts on volunteering
- Work to eliminate current barriers, including funding barriers to volunteering
- Increase awareness of the value of volunteering and promote opportunities to volunteer
- Encourage better practice in recruiting and managing volunteers
- Gather better data on volunteering

### The sector undertakes to

- Improve the management and recruitment of volunteers
- Give better training and support to volunteers
- Help volunteers find appropriate roles
- Give thanks and recognition to their volunteers
- Promote the benefits of volunteering

Full Compact available at: [www.thecompact.org.uk](http://www.thecompact.org.uk)

