

# Have you got what it takes?

Working with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE)



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### Important facts

The introduction of PCCs is an example of the shift of power from central government to the local level which gives powers to local authorities, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals.

Due to their connections to communities, the VCSE are well placed to develop and deliver approaches meeting local need and to encourage local people to tackle crime. They have a crucial role in supporting aims related to crime and community safety.

The Compact is the agreement between the Government and the VCSE outlining a way of working that improves their relationship so it creates an advantage for both. 97% of local authorities in England have signed up to a local Compact based on what is right for their local area and which promotes better partnerships.

Further details about Compact and how it can be used by partners can be found here: [www.compactvoice.org.uk/about-compact](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/about-compact)

### Background

The VCSE includes local community and voluntary groups, registered charities, foundations, trusts and social enterprises and co-operatives (who apply business principles to make the most profit possible for their cause). They may also be referred to as 'third sector' or 'civil society' organisations.

The VCSE provides a range of different services to meet specific needs including support for victims, rehabilitation of offenders, early intervention for young people at risk of offending, and giving local communities the power to tackle crime. As representatives of VCSE organisations are often members of the communities they serve, they can offer excellent insight at the most local of levels. They are in an ideal position to provide the voice of experience and help set local community-safety priorities. They are independent of the Government. They also reinvest any profit they make to continue to support their aims.

### VCSE partners support delivering aims related to crime prevention and community safety

VCSE organisations play an essential role in supporting aims related to tackling crime prevention and community safety as providers of services and advocates for vulnerable groups such as offenders and victims. They are also

increasingly involved in assessing local need to help develop services.

Many VCSE organisations are already involved in local community safety partnership (CSP) arrangements. They mainly support a specific aim or, through a local VCSE umbrella organisation (whose role it is to support, represent and promote the interests of local VCSE organisations), co-ordinate the views of the whole sector in the area. A recent survey revealed that 48% of VCSE organisations are already working with their CSPs.

### Social Action

Social action is about people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities. It:

- **Increases the resources available to achieve social goals;**
- **Gives public services access to new expertise and knowledge;**
- **Enables broader and better targeted support;**
- **Empowers local groups, enabling local solutions and building resilient communities;**
- **Creates new models for how society can respond to challenges; and**
- **Helps reduce the demand for public services.**

## Social Investment

Social investment seeks a social impact, as well as a financial return. Social investors are people who invest their money to have a measurable social impact alongside a financial return. This creates pools of capital and expertise to support policy interventions and reduce public funding requirements in the long term. This can include supporting policies that provide better health and build stronger communities, as well as safer neighbourhoods.

Over the past decade, the social investment market has been growing with an estimated £3bn worth of social investment in total available to the UK.

## Social Value Act

The Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force on 31 January 2013. It requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

Before they start the procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

The Act is a tool to help commissioners get more value for money out of procurement. It also encourages commissioners to talk to their local provider market or community to design better services, often finding new and innovative solutions to difficult problems.

## Support for the sector to work with PCCs

The Police and Crime Commissioners and Civil Society report, published in March 2015, aims to share best practice to develop further collaboration between Police and Crime Commissioners and civil society.

This report explores some of the ways in which civil society organisations and PCCs work together. It highlights some interesting practice and opportunities for future collaboration.

It has been compiled through a partnership of the Cabinet Office, Home Office and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).

Findings from this work have been shared with the VCSE strategic partners and complement recent research from Clinks (an organisation which supports, represents and campaigns for charities working with offenders) and a guide to working with PCCs soon to be published by Compact Voice.

The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-and-crime-commissioners-and-civil-society>

## More information

### How might the VCSE support the PCC in delivering local priorities?

There are VCSE organisations which cover the full range of crime issues including antisocial behaviour, re-offending, substance misuse, violence against women and girls, youth crime, and crime in local neighbourhoods. They are in a position to give a unique view on what communities need and provide services to meet these.

### Should the PCC sign up to local Compact arrangements?

That is up to each PCC. The Compact outlines a way of working between the Government and the VCSE that improves their relationship so it creates an advantage for both. It can be used as a partnership tool and to improve funding relationships.

## Useful links

### National Council for Voluntary Organisations

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk>

NCVO champions the voluntary sector and volunteering because they're essential for a better society

### Compact

[www.compactvoice.org.uk/about-compact](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/about-compact)

This gives details of the Compact and how it can be used by partners.

### NAVCA

[www.navca.org.uk](http://www.navca.org.uk)

NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) is the national voice of local support and development organisations in England