

South Ayrshire Third Sector and South Ayrshire IJB

Partnership Agreement

It is hoped that this Concordat contributes to the positive growing relationship between South Ayrshire HSCP and the Third Sector in South Ayrshire and displays a shared vision and clear ways of working that will further strengthen the partnership, demonstrating collaborative, co-produced and joined up working; supporting communities together.

It recognises and validates the Scottish Government mandated role of the Third Sector Interface (VASA) and the national commitment to including the Third Sector in the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) Strategic Planning. It sets out a structure for joint working, bringing localism within communities, embedding the power of partnership working for the benefit of South Ayrshire's people.

South Ayrshire HSCP and the Third Sector, which includes community groups, voluntary organisations, faith groups, charities and social enterprises have different approaches, different cultures, and face different challenges. The South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Strategic Plan aspires to support people to live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, and resilient. Therefore, there is a shared interest in the wellbeing and sustainable development and empowerment of the people in South Ayrshire.

The third and community sector should therefore be recognised and appreciated as an equal partner for their commitment and contribution to our communities. By building effective relationships with Health and Social Care statutory services, we are pledging to strengthen the Health and Social Care Sector as a whole, bringing greater collaboration and delivering real benefits to the people of South Ayrshire.

Ultimately, both sectors prioritise the wellbeing of the South Ayrshire community. Partners should recognise the value in the different roles played by the statutory sector and the Third Sector and that there is also a right for Third Sector organisations to disagree, debate and challenge decisions.

The Third Sector Interface (VASA) will collaborate effectively to ensure that the Third Sector of South Ayrshire has the opportunity and the means to participate in and engage in discussions that harness the voice of communities. The HSCP will also work with VASA and Scottish Care locally to ensure a collaborative approach to commissioning services where possible, in partnership with the community and the people we support. Ensuring that the Third and Independent Sectors have the opportunity to work to continuously improve and enhance relationships that build strong trust and confidence that their voice is actively listened to and reflected. Investing in the voice of the people and the relationships built between Third Sector services and the communities they serve.

By working together, pledging to a shared commitment will mean that:

South Ayrshire Third Sector Interface and South Ayrshire HSCP have recognised the need to embrace joined up working that promotes equality and human rights, inspires community empowerment, and enables the people of South Ayrshire to flourish. Acknowledging a shared vision to bring localism within communities; embedding the power of partnership working for the benefit of our communities and its people. A shared vision to encourage and support partnership working in the interest of South Ayrshire communities.

Our Partnership Agreement is:

- To work jointly with a shared ambition that reflects the vision and objectives of the South Ayrshire Strategic Plan together, to develop communities that support its people to live well, age well and thrive
- To recognising the need for accountability, honesty and transparency
- To value the Third Sector, recognising their independence, worth and connection to local communities
- To provide investment and support that safeguards the Third Sector's sustainability and allows growth
- To work in partnership conveying knowledge and intelligence and commit to respectful joint working practices
- To direct resources and assets in ways that ensure best practice and impact on local need and aspirations
- To ensure our joint work will encourage and commit to promoting equalities and respect human rights
- To ensure South Ayrshire's people benefit from partnership working across Local Authority and Third Sector services
- To share data and intelligence to support appropriate and effective commissioning and targeting of service

It is to be expected that South Ayrshire HSCP will:

- Recognise the Third Sector Interface (VASA) as the point of contact between the HSCP and the Third Sector
- Recognise the Third Sector and their delivery of services as a key contributor and valued asset to an effective, inclusive economy
- Engage with the Third Sector and include the Third Sector in planning and decision making, demonstrating collaborative, co-produced, and equal working practices

It is to be expected that the Third Sector Interface (VASA) will:

- Engage with, support and advocate for South Ayrshire's Third Sector with South Ayrshire statutory partners
- Support the HSCP to engage with the community and those who are supported by health and social care services
- Support and develop the Third Sector, bringing opportunity to participate in meetings, engage with, and represent their views in the interest of the communities they serve
- Listen to and engage with the views of local councillors, IJB members and the professional leaders within the HSCP

Signed by:
On behalf of South Ayrshire IJB

Signed by:
On behalf of the TSI (VASA)