

# Our Shared Commitments

## ***What it means to be part of the Connecting Communities Collective***

We're a group of charities working in the same area, with some shared funding and resources. To make sure we stay aligned and effective, we've agreed on the following commitments — and we ask any new partners to sign up to them too.

### **1. Work Together, Not Against Each Other**

We believe in collaboration, not competition. That means we won't compete with each other for funding if we can work together instead.

### **2. Build on What's Already Happening**

We take time to understand what others in the group are already doing, and avoid duplicating work. If something's already working well, we look for ways to add to it — not repeat it.

### **3. Share and Learn Openly**

We're open with each other. We share what we're learning, what's working (and what isn't), so we can all do better.

### **4. Focus on Equity and Inclusion**

We make space for every voice — especially those often left out. We make sure the people and communities we serve are at the heart of our work.

### **5. Respect Each Other's Differences**

We're all different — and that's a strength. We respect each other's missions, values, and ways of working.

### **6. Keep It Local**

We're committed to this place. We respond to local needs and work in ways that make sense for the people here.

### **7. Decide Things Together**

We make decisions together, as equals. Everyone gets a say, and we listen with respect.

### **8. Share What We Can**

Where it makes sense, we share resources — like funding, staff time, knowledge, or tools — to help us go further together.

### **9. Handle Disagreements Well**

Disagreements are normal. When they happen, we deal with them openly, kindly, and with a focus on finding a way forward.

### **10. Stick With It**

We're in this for the long haul. We invest time and care in the relationships that make this Collective work.