

Voluntary and Community Sector / Teignbridge CVS Representation Principles

The following principles will help Teignbridge CVS members and partner agencies have full confidence in our representation processes.

- As far as possible, representatives (reps) must represent the broad interest of Voluntary and Community Sector / Teignbridge CVS members, not their personal or own group view.
- Reps are not usually told what to say in advance of their meetings (or mandated) because they often have to respond immediately to issues arising at a meeting. To be effective, Voluntary and Community Sector / Teignbridge CVS reps have to be able to respond at the speed of the other partners. Sometimes there will be key issues or decisions to be made, with implications for the future work of Voluntary and Community Sector, the CVS and its members. Where it is not possible to bring these for discussion at the a relevant forum, they must be brought to the attention through the Teignbridge CVS Chief Executive / Officer.
- When reporting back about meetings, reps will report the same views, information, and input they gave when representing Voluntary and Community Sector.
- If there is a conflict of interest, (e.g., where their own organisation is directly benefiting through funding under consideration) this should be declared to both the partnership and to Voluntary and Community Sector.
- Reps will work to promote Voluntary and Community Sector / Teignbridge CVS Core Values in all their representative activities.
- If reps cannot attend a partnership activity, Teignbridge CVS staff may substitute for them to ensure ongoing and consistent participation.

- Voluntary and Community Sector / Teignbridge CVS reps must strive to work positively with all Partnership members and seek to make an effective contribution to the work of the Partnership.
- Teignbridge CVS serves its members by creating opportunities for communication and input into partnerships via Voluntary and Community Sector / Teignbridge CVS reps.

However, Teignbridge CVS staff will not exert undue influence when policy is under debate in Voluntary and Community Sector / Teignbridge CVS forums or external partnerships.