

# Compact

working together | better together

North East Lincolnshire Compact

North East Lincolnshire Council  
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North East Lincolnshire Council



# What is the Compact ?

**The local Compact is a statement of agreement between public sector and voluntary and community sector organisations working in North East Lincolnshire.**

## **The Compact:**

- recognises the vital role that voluntary and community sector organisations play in the delivery of public policy and services
- sets guidelines so that we can work together more easily and effectively to respond to the needs of local people
- helps build stronger and more inclusive partnerships across the sectors
- is based on shared values, a shared vision and mutual respect and understanding

## **THE COMPACT - shared principles**

Local consultation to date has highlighted issues that the Compact needs to address to improve working relationships between sectors. As a result, the following principles have been adopted:

## Communication

### **As Compact members we agree that: -**

- communication between partners should be honest, open and accessible to all
- partners should have channels to receive and respond to communication effectively
- partners should take all reasonable steps to ensure that no interested party is excluded from any relevant communication

## Joint Working

### **As Compact members we agree that: -**

- by working together we will achieve more for the people of North East Lincolnshire
- partners and sectors can achieve their own aims whilst contributing to common aims and objectives; membership does not bring with it automatic endorsement of an organisation's aims
- by working closely together we will raise awareness of local needs, developments and provision, ensuring better policy making and better services for our communities
- genuine partnership across the sectors requires integrity, accountability and recognition of the equal value of everyone's contribution
- we will maintain high standards of governance, conduct and accountability

## Action

### **As Compact members we agree that: -**

- action we take should address local need and be based on joint planning and decision making between partners across sectors
- jointly agreed action brings with it accountability and responsibility to other partners
- through our actions we will encourage, involve and empower all parties to contribute to a stronger community

## Trust

### **As Compact members we agree that: -**

- trust between partners is essential in developing productive working relationships
- trust develops more readily when organisations understand the aims, objectives and constraints of other partners
- voluntary and community organisations are entitled to comment on and challenge policy and campaign without prejudice to funding arrangements
- voluntary and community organisations have the right to determine and manage their own affairs

## **THE COMPACT – commitments**

### **Joint undertakings, agreed by all Compact members**

- We will be open and honest in all our dealings with each other
- We will work together to meet present and future needs of those who live and work in North East Lincolnshire
- We will respond flexibly and sensitively towards each other and respect confidentiality (unless there is a legal obligation not to do so)
- We will foster the Compact partnership between the public and voluntary and community sectors
- We will keep each other informed of matters that affect our common aims and objectives
- We will measure and review the impact of our work towards common objectives and share this information as widely as possible
- We will equip our staff and volunteers to perform their tasks, working with other agencies where appropriate to achieve this
- We will comply with recognised codes of practice when involving volunteers within our services
- We will meet our legal, reporting and accounting obligations as funders, planners and service providers, supporting each other where necessary
- We will recognise the need to make information accessible through the use of plain language and in a range of formats
- We will develop and implement local Codes of Practice.

## **Undertakings agreed by public sector Compact members**

- We recognise and respect the independence of the voluntary and community sectors and their lawful campaigning and challenging role irrespective of any funding relationship that may exist
- We will give voluntary and community sector Compact members the opportunity to participate in the development of policy and strategy in their areas of interest and responsibility
- We will give voluntary and community sector Compact members the opportunity to be appropriately represented on public bodies and working groups
- We will allow reasonable time for consultation so that Compact members are able to involve their service users and others affected by the issue(s) under discussion
- We will ensure that the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are positively taken into account, including consultation with organisations representing those groups
- We will actively pursue a policy of openness and transparency in our dealings with Compact members
- We will be consistent and transparent in the way we manage funding arrangements, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance, within our respective legal and financial constraints
- We will work closely with voluntary and community sector Compact members to enhance the delivery of our statutory obligations, providing non-financial support, advice, guidance and opportunities for training where appropriate
- We will monitor and share information on policy developments that may impact on the voluntary and community sector

## **Undertakings by voluntary and community sector Compact members**

- We will represent the views of local people and, where appropriate, our national organisations, on public bodies and working groups
- We will gather the views of local people about services and share these views with service providers where appropriate
- We will support public sector consultation and make sure, within available resources, it reaches all those people that need to be included
- We will make sure that the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are positively taken into account
- We will involve service users and other stakeholders in the development and management of services

## **What happens next?**

- All groups and organisations that sign the Compact become Compact Members, agreeing to abide by the joint undertakings and the undertakings of their sector
- Each Compact member will name a Compact champion/contact in their organisation
- The Compact will be reviewed regularly by a Compact Steering Group, made up of representatives from public sector and voluntary and community sector organisations.
- Compact Members will develop the local codes of practice on volunteering, funding and procurement, community groups, black and minority ethnic voluntary and community organisations and consultation and policy appraisal.
- Compact members can challenge other members and may oppose each other on some issues. All such debates will be managed with dignity and restraint on both sides.



Yorkshire & Humber  
Regional Development Agency

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For further information please  
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