



# The County Durham Compact

The Compact is a set of promises made by voluntary & community groups and statutory organisations (like local government, NHS bodies, and so on). The promises are about behaving towards one another in a way that will nurture voluntary & community groups as well as helping statutory organisations to do their work.

It's all about ...

**Partnership**

**Fair funding**

**Talking to each other**

## Statutory organisations that have signed up to the Compact promise to ...

- Be open and transparent about the funding that is available and the criteria that apply to it; spread this information as widely as possible
- Share funding out fairly, using arrangements that are easy to understand; try to use a single grant application form, instead of lots of different forms
- Pay up quickly, and let groups know as soon as possible about future funding
- Provide long-term funding whenever they can
- Help to develop support and resources for voluntary & community groups
- Use the special knowledge that voluntary & community groups have, and accept training from them where appropriate
- Talk to voluntary & community groups and involve them in the development of all policies likely to affect them
- Make sure that these talks happen early enough to give groups time to say what they think – so that what they say can actually make a difference
- Try to understand the needs and values of smaller community organisations and those representing minority and socially excluded groups
- Take decisions openly, and explain them where necessary
- Respect the independence of voluntary & community groups

## Voluntary & community groups that have signed up to the Compact promise to ...

- Run their groups as well as they can; be accountable to all their members, service users, carers and volunteers; do the monitoring and evaluation that funders ask for
- Try to involve members, service users, carers and volunteers in the development and management of their activities; consult them to make sure that they can pass on their opinions accurately when they talk to statutory organisations
- Let statutory organisations know about their plans, and respect the statutory sector's right to comment

## All signatories to the Compact ...

- Agree that a thriving voluntary & community sector is important
- Agree that partnership is important
- Will treat people equally, regardless of sexual orientation, cultural identity, age, disability, gender, religion, social and economic status and political beliefs; conflicts will be resolved in a spirit of equality
- Promise to get together once a year to see how well the Compact is working
- Promise to promote the Compact, make sure that the right people in their organisation know all about it, and stick to its principles

## Breach of Compact principles

- Both voluntary & community organisations and the statutory sector will respect one another's right to challenge breaches of the Compact
- The Compact Implementation Group will catalogue complaints about failures to adhere to the principles or the spirit of the Compact and bring them to the Compact Annual Review
- The County Durham Compact User Guide has details of mediation procedures that can be followed where there is a possible breach of Compact