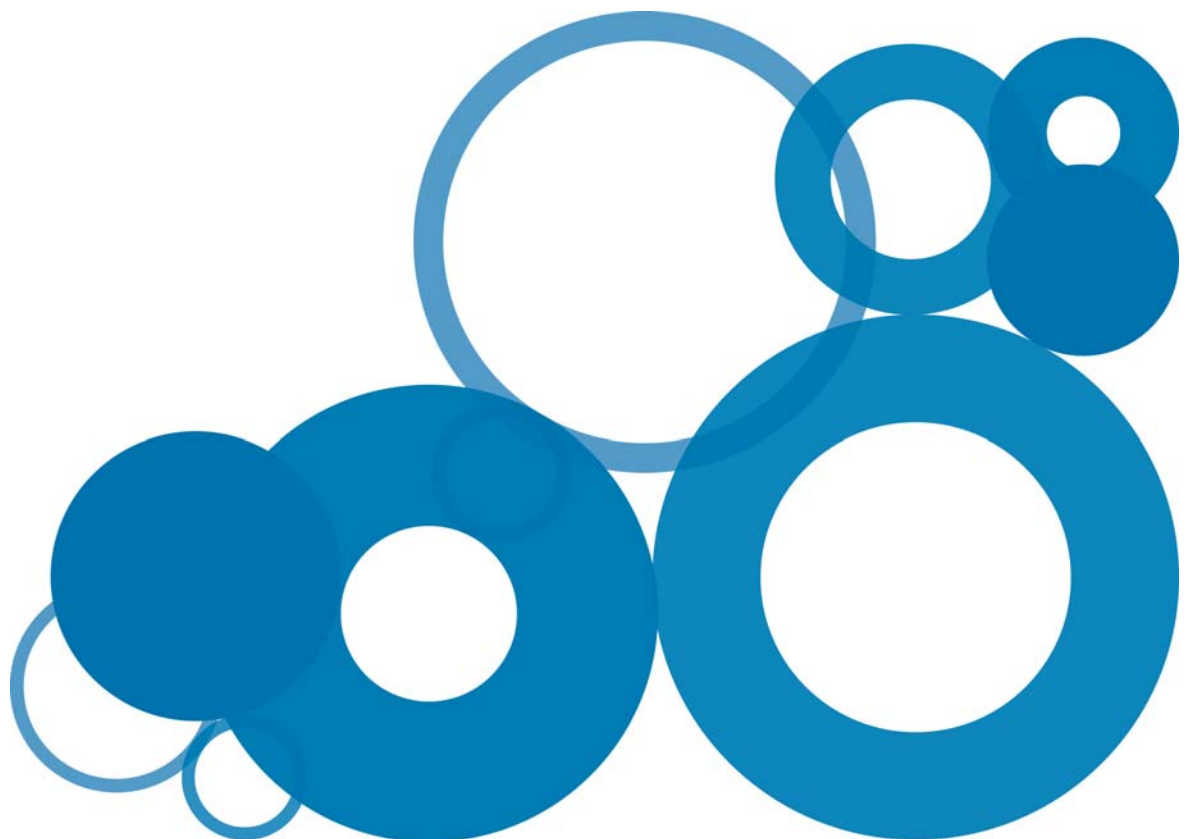


# The Kirklees Compact

## October 2005

A 'framework' for working relationships  
between the voluntary and community, public  
and private sectors within the  
Kirklees Partnership.



# Introduction

## What is a Compact?

A “Compact” is an agreement between the voluntary and community sector and the public sector bodies.

A national Compact between central government and the voluntary sector was launched in November 1998. Local authorities are now being encouraged to develop appropriate local Compacts of their own.

In Kirklees however, the Compact has been developed between the voluntary and community sector and other partners within the Kirklees Partnership. The Kirklees Partnership is the local strategic partnership for the area. Its members include a wide range of organisations such as Kirklees Metropolitan Council, West Yorkshire Police, Local Health Organisations, Passenger Transport Executive, further education colleges, Huddersfield University, Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, private companies as well as Kirklees Federation of Tenants and Residents Association, Race Equality Council and Voluntary Action Kirklees.

In April 2002 the Kirklees Partnership launched its Vision - “A blueprint for our future Vision 2012” - a ten year strategy for the area’s future. The compact lays the foundations for how Kirklees should develop through the Vision. – Jayne to update this bit re community strategy

The Compact sets out:

- Our shared vision and principles
- Promises from both sides
- Specific codes of practice on Volunteering and Funding & Procurement – these codes are to be used as a set of standards by all partners.

## Why do we need a Compact?

For many years the voluntary and community sector has played a fundamental role in improving the quality of life for residents in all parts of Kirklees. It is made up of a wide variety of groups and organisations - from small local interest groups to larger voluntary sector organisations who often provide services.

Voluntary and community groups can have a key role in one, or more of the following areas:

- giving support, advice and information
- acting as advocates and lobbyists
- being experts and giving help in specialist areas (such as knowledge and support to people with particular illnesses or issues)
- providing services
- helping the voice of the public to be heard by the statutory sector
- being catalysts for innovation and change.
- providing knowledge for planning and commissioning services
- self-help and community development

The Compact will help us to take forward this important role, and acknowledge the underlying philosophy that voluntary and community activity is essential for the development of a democratic and socially inclusive society.

It will:

- develop shared principles against which progress can be measured
- make the most of the resources that are available
- make sure the needs of local communities are met
- improve the relationship between the Voluntary and Community sector and Kirklees partners which will promote best practice
- promote better understanding between organisations in the public sector, private sector and voluntary and community groups.

## The Process

The Compact, and its complimentary codes of practice, have been developed by a Project Board, A Project Team and working groups for the codes. Membership for all these groups was drawn from the voluntary, community and statutory sectors, and lead by Kirklees Council, Kirklees Partnership and Voluntary Action Kirklees.

## Development and Review

This Compact sets out a framework for the future so is a starting point rather than a conclusion. Now the Compact has been agreed it is important to agree that all organisations embed it in their own policy frameworks and implement it in future work. For general queries about the Compact please contact the KMC Voluntary Sector Development Manager in Safer, Stronger Communities.

## Compact Compliance

The Compact and the Codes of Practice all contain a number of undertakings; some of these are joint, and some are specific to a Sector. It is important that all organisations have faith that other bodies will take these seriously and work to them wherever possible. On occasion one organisation may feel that the Compact has not been followed, or expected standards not meet. In this case it is expected that the issue will be raised at the first opportunity and dealt with as soon as possible.

- All organisations are expected to embed the Compact within their own policies and procedures and make any necessary changes to meet the expectations and undertakings outlined in the documents
- Organisations are expected to use systems that are already in place to deal with such matters that involve dealing with disputes - such as mediation, complaints procedures or correspondence with managers, trustees and management committees.
- If it is the case that two or more bodies that are signed up to the Compact can not find a resolution to the problem themselves, then it is advised that they all agree to ask the Kirklees Partnership to review the process and outcomes of the complaint investigations and make recommendations for the future.

# The Kirklees Compact

## Our shared vision

The Kirklees Compact expresses our commitment to working in partnership to promote a flourishing, diverse and independent voluntary and community sector for the benefit of Kirklees residents.

## Principles of the Compact

- Recognition of the value of working together to share good practice, and moving towards common aims and objectives;
- Commitment to actively involve the voluntary and community sector to influence decisions, planning, policy and resources.
- Recognition of the particularly diverse nature of this sector, ranging from local sports and social groups entirely run by volunteers, to larger service providers with paid staff.
- Promoting equality of opportunity for all people regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.
- Promotion of voluntary organisations that play an important role in helping volunteers to make a valuable contribution to the community.
- Meaningful consultation builds relationships, improves policy development and enhances the design and delivery of services.
- Special effort should be made to reach groups and communities that are excluded from decision making structures.
- Advocacy and campaigning is encouraged as a legitimate and beneficial role for voluntary and community organisations.
- Develop networks and forums to identify shared issues and concerns, and give the voluntary and community sector a stronger voice
- To strive for integrity, accountability, openness and honesty in all our dealings.
- To support the development of a strong and effective infrastructure for the voluntary and community sector
- To make best use of resources and strive for quality in what we do

## Undertakings by the public sector organisations covered by the Kirklees Partnership

### We will

- recognise and support the independence of the sector including its right to campaign within the law and challenge local policies
- work toward funding and grant arrangements that are clear, fair and accessible and that recognise the need for sustainability within the voluntary and community sector
- have made clear the responsibilities and expectations on both sides where a voluntary organisation is receiving funding
- widely consult and engage with the voluntary and community sector in development of priorities, policies, services and other areas ; allowing sufficient time for consultation and giving feedback
- support the development of new and emerging groups to meet community needs
- be prepared to take risks and support new ideas while still ensuring that public resources are used appropriately
- support accessible learning and development for community groups and active community members.
- provide support to the voluntary and community sector to develop as a provider of services to the local community.

## Undertakings by the voluntary and community sector

### We will

- involve service users, volunteers and members at all levels, including consultation, decision making, monitoring, evaluation and service development
- inform and consult on issues, and accurately feedback the results of consultation
- develop policies for ensuring equality of opportunity in both employment practice and service provision, and ways to monitor this
- involve volunteers in service provision and, where appropriate, in the management of the organisation and its projects
- ensure accountability to service users, including having effective and monitored complaints systems
- publicly acknowledge Public Sector funders support.
- have clear and effective management and financial arrangements and procedures, proportionate to their income
- fulfil conditions of any financial agreements, including planning, monitoring and evaluating the work
- provide quality activities and services, including adoption of quality assurance standards where appropriate