

Slide# 1: Quick overview of the Compact

Slide# 2: What today will cover:

Slide# 3: Show of hands:

Slide# 4: What is the Compact?

- Sets out principles and commitments for BOTH voluntary sector and government to help them work effectively together
- The Compact was originally launched in 1998, established under labour but renewed in 2010 at formation of current coalition govt
- Has cross-party support.
- Its principles are based on fostering good engagement across the statutory and voluntary sectors
- It covers more than just funding relationships: it encourages the voluntary sector to be involved in policy design and development, it aims to ensure an equal and fair society, that voluntary organisations are consulted with about policies that will affect their service users, and there are principles protecting the voluntary sector's independence.
- Every government department is signed up to the national Compact, it is one of only six cross-departmental business plan priorities for every department.

Slide# 5: Local Compacts

- Quick show of hands: who here knows which of these is their local Compact?
- If you aren't sure, Compact Voice has a list on our website (click on the 'find your local Compact' button on the home page)
- Local Compacts interpret the principles in the national Compact to reflect local circumstances.
- Many local Compacts will include a dispute resolution procedure / steps to follow locally if relationships break down
- Local Compacts also usually have 'signatories': local orgs and reps will sign up to its principles. Signatories can include the local authority, Councils for Voluntary Service, Citizens Advice Bureaux, and voluntary sec orgs themselves, Mind or local Age UK branches.
- We have recently undertaken a survey of local Compacts which revealed that around 40% of local Compacts have a Clinical Commissioning Group signed up, and we also work across local areas

encouraging HWBs and commissioning bodies such as PCCs to sign up or get involved.

- The effectiveness and level of engaging with local Compacts varies hugely across the country
- In some areas, local Compacts underpin every aspect of partnership working across the sectors, providing a really useful foundation on which to talk about issues that are affecting the local community, and which different bodies from across the sectors are working to address.
- Local Compacts are voluntary agreements. They are not 'owned' by one sector, and they are intended to have equal benefits for both.
- Local Compacts can also help CCGs, for example, to engage with a broader range of voluntary organisations, and a key point of access in terms of reaching smaller community groups
- And for these small groups, local Compact working groups can provide a way for them to have a single, unified voice when talking to health bodies
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Slide# 6: Compact Principles

The Compact covers a number of key topics:

- The first principle concerns the need to understand that a strong, diverse and independent voluntary sector has benefits for both sectors
- The second one focuses on the need to design and develop policies, programmes and public services in an effective and transparent way
- Principle 3 focuses on ensuring services are responsive and of a high quality
- Principle 4 outlines processes to follow for managing changes to programmes and services (obviously a hugely important thing to agree at the outset of a relationship)
- And lastly, Principle 5 undertakes partners to work towards ensuring an equal and fair society

It's important to remember that the Compact goes beyond being merely a list of activities – it signifies a sense of spirit and an approach to working together which people can understand and respond to without ever needing to read an action plan or read a briefing.

Slide# 7: Why do we need a Compact?

Local Compacts can help to foster:

- A clear sense of how to work together and what to expect from partners

- Recognition that working together brings more benefit to communities than working alone
- Enable groups who are working with disadvantaged communities have a voice and that health commissioners for example are able to reach their service users and understand their issues
- Enables both sectors to manage disputes by outlining expectations
- Local Compact working groups can provide a platform for open dialogue between partners that ultimately benefits the local community. For example, it's a unique way for reps from chambers of commerce, Local Enterprise Partnerships, CCGs and HWB reps to talk about the issues they are facing, and how they are addressing these
- Signing up to a local Compact represents standing behind something which has a clearly defined role and recognised purpose which has been developed based on local priorities.
- Local Compacts can also help areas respond to new policy initiatives – provides a forum for developing frameworks for implementing these and discussing opportunities that arise from them (social value act)
- Using and developing local Compacts is a key way of ensuring that local organisations are better able to influence and develop services and policies. This is vital to ensure that services meet the needs of local Communities, and will save money in the long run as a result.
- Some may say 'but partnership working in my area is working really well, why do I need a local Compact'? – Local Compacts are a way of ensuring this continues to be the case, regardless of who they key players are.

Slide# 8: The Compact and partnerships in health

Case Study: Bob Jones, Watford and Three River Trust

Slide# 9: 15 minute break

Slide# 10: Five reasons for public bodies to work with voluntary organisations

This is taken from our guide to working with CCGs which is currently a work in progress.

- 1) Expertise: by working with communities – often over the course of many years –voluntary organisations have detailed and granular knowledge of how health and social issues are playing out locally.
- 2) Value driven: the ultimate goal of the voluntary sector is to meet the needs of the community.
- 3) Innovation: voluntary organisations can often identify problems and start experimenting with solutions more rapidly than the statutory or private sector.
- 4) Preventative services: the sector excels in early interventions which reduce the need for individuals to rely on statutory services later on.

5) Contact with underrepresented groups: voluntary organisations reach people who are less likely to be heard by government, ensuring that policies take into account the needs of all sections of society.

Slide# 11: Roundtable discussion

Slide# 12: How can you embed the principles of good partnership working?

We hope that you shared some good examples of partnership working in your local area; here are some practical ways that you can build on this work.

- Encouraging explicit reference to the principles of the Compact in commissioning plans.
- Establishing routes of communication between health bodies and the local Compact group.
- Encouraging health bodies to sign up to the local Compact if they are not already – this can be part of a broader renewal.
- Don't forget the other levers for good partnership working – in particular the public authority's duties under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.
- [Talk to Compact Voice!](#) We provide local support to help build and maintain sustainable relationships. Please feel free to contact us to talk about embedding the principles of the Compact locally

Slide# 13: Revisiting expectations

Slide# 14: Thank you for coming along!

Thank you for coming along to the session, we hope that you found it useful. Please take a look at our website www.compactvoice.org.uk for more examples of good partnership working and follow us on twitter to keep up to date with what we're up to.

Also, please fill out evaluation forms and honest!! We will be delivering the same session in Nottingham so it will be good to know what worked and what didn't.