

# **A COMPACT FOR DERBYSHIRE**

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February 2003

## **WHY HAVE A COMPACT?**

Local Government is rapidly becoming dominated by the concept of partnerships. Most, if not all, new initiatives emphasise the need for interagency partnerships as the basis for action at local level. The delivery of effective equitable and efficient services will increasingly rely upon strong and appropriately defined relationships between the different agencies concerned.

Against this background the nature of the relationship between statutory organisations and the voluntary/community sector is increasingly important. The National Compact was launched by Government in November 1998. Since then statutory organisations and voluntary organisations have been encouraged to develop their own compacts, to suit local circumstances. In Derbyshire it is fair to say that a good relationship already exists between statutory organisations and voluntary organisations/community groups. A compact is seen as the means of developing that relationship further over the coming years, building upon existing good practice while taking account of changing demands in society.

## **WHAT IS A COMPACT?**

It sets out a framework to guide future relationships between the statutory sector, voluntary and community organisations. It is seen very much as a starting point, not a conclusion. There must be a joint commitment to developing its application and effectiveness. The Compact is therefore a “work in progress” and not designed to gather dust. It should be subject to regular review and an Action Plan to ensure progress. The Compact should be informed by nationally produced Codes of Practice covering the following areas:

- i) Funding
- ii) Consultation and policy appraisal
- iii) Volunteering
- iv) Community groups
- v) Black and minority ethnic organisations and any other policy documents which might follow.

The Derbyshire Compact has been developed jointly with voluntary and community organisations. There is a commitment by partners to extend the agreement to other organisations working in Derbyshire.

- The Derbyshire Compact has been developed on the basis of consultations with voluntary and community organisations. It also draws upon national guidance and existing good practice.
- It is a **framework** for the way in which partners should work together.
- It is a **voluntary** commitment by partners to certain principles and to resolving difficulties in an equitable manner.

## **Community Groups and the Derbyshire Compact**

It is important that the distinctive needs and interests of Community Groups are taken into account, by both statutory and voluntary organisations, as their perspectives and concerns may differ from those of other voluntary organisations.

Partners to the Derbyshire Compact will consider the national Code of Good Practice, regarding Community Groups.

### **Organisations from Black and Ethnic Minority Organisations and the Derbyshire Compact**

Partners to the Derbyshire Compact welcome the range of black and ethnic minority organisations. Yet many fall outside of the traditional structures of the voluntary and community sector. The Compact process will try to address the needs and issues of importance to black and ethnic minority organisations.

The national Code of Good Practice will be considered.

## THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DERBYSHIRE COMPACT

- Volunteering** is an essential component of a democratic society.
- An **independent and diverse voluntary and community sector** is fundamental to the wellbeing of society.
- In the development and delivery of public policy and services, the statutory sector and voluntary and community sectors have **distinct but complementary roles**.
- There is “**added value**” in **working together** towards common aims and objectives.  
**Meaningful consultation** builds relationships, improves policy development and enhances the design and delivery of services and programmes.
- Each sector has **different forms of accountability** and is **answerable to a different range of stakeholders and each other**. But there is a common need for integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness and honesty, respect and effective leadership.
- Voluntary and community organisations **should be free to campaign** within the law in order to advance their aims.
- The need for the statutory sector to allocate adequate and appropriate resources to voluntary and community organisations is recognised. These include **funding and advice and other support**. They are important elements of the relationship between the sectors.
- A commitment to celebrating diversity, promoting equality of opportunities**, and good relations between the diverse groups within our community.
- The Derbyshire Compact is very much a working document, subject to a Joint Annual Review, reflecting local experience and national guidance, with an Action Plan developed on the basis of that review. The Joint Annual Review will include the representatives of all key agencies, ensuring the Joint Review process is conducted appropriately and ‘owned’ by all partners to the Compact.

### Our Commitment

We agree with the Derbyshire Compact and are committed to working with our partners in accordance with its principles.

(Name): .....

On behalf of

(Organisation): .....

Date: .....

**Partners to the Derbyshire Compact agree to work in line with the following principles.**

Statutory Agencies

Voluntary and Community Organisations

**Balance**

To recognise the value of working together and the different strengths that statutory, voluntary and community partners bring to the relationship and their respective responsibilities.

To recognise the strengths and responsibilities of statutory partners.

To acknowledge that the statutory sector benefits from the closeness to the community, knowledge of need, consultation networks, innovative approaches, user and volunteer involvement and willingness to experiment that voluntary and community organisations may provide.

**Recognition**

To recognise the contribution made by staff and people who give freely of their time within voluntary organisations and community groups, enriching the economy, social fabric and public life of Derbyshire

To recognise the commitments made to involve, consult, resource and support voluntary and community organisations.

To recognise (i) the differences in terms of size, scope and aims of voluntary and community organisations, and (ii) the different forms of relationship which exist between partners; reflecting this recognition through appropriate ways of working together

To acknowledge the primary responsibility of statutory bodies to work and deliver services in line with government policies and locally agreed priorities.

Recognise and be accountable first and foremost to constituent members, user groups or communities of interest, as appropriate to the organisation and to its funding charter.

To recognise the distinct needs of the varying rural and urban populations of Derbyshire and the differing demands these make on voluntary organisations and community groups in those areas.

To recognise that partners may work in isolation and are often under resourced, and

To acknowledge their independence, including the right within the law to campaign, to comment on public policy.

Recognise other partnerships, which could benefit from these working practices.

To recognise the influence on voluntary organisations and community groups of varying and not necessarily co-ordinated priorities that may exist across statutory agencies.

Recognise that other partnerships could benefit from these working practices.

**Funding and Accountability**

- To fund and support partners where this is the most effective way of delivering a service, responding to a social need, subject to agreed priorities, guidance from central government and the availability of resources.
- To acknowledge partners also needs strategic funding, regular support and guidance to build their own capacity.
- To acknowledge that partners in the voluntary sector have a responsibility to offer reasonable terms and conditions of employment.
- To adopt monitoring and evaluation procedures which are commensurate with the size of organisation and the contractual relationship. As far as possible these procedures to be coordinated across the statutory agencies purchasing services from the Voluntary sector, avoid unnecessary duplication.
- To consider national Code of Good Practice.

- To ensure that funding is well spent and to meet reporting and accountability obligations.
- To monitor and evaluate services, ensuring compliance with principles of Best Value or equivalent indicators.
- To work within all appropriate regulations and where contracts are involved, within the standard terms and conditions of the relevant purchasing authority.
- To develop quality standards appropriate to the organisation.
- To consider national Code of Good Practice.

Statutory Agencies

Voluntary and Community  
Organisations

<p><b>Policy Development and Consultation</b></p>
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To consider the implications for partners when developing policy.

To consult with partners by appropriate and agreed means.

To consult the sector on issues that are likely to affect it and to listen to their responses at the initial stages and throughout the life of the project.

To recognise the timescale required for effective consultation.

To consider the national Code of Good Practice.

To agree realistic timescales.

To ensure that key stakeholders are informed/consulted wherever possible.

To consider the national Code of Good Practice.

Statutory Agencies

Voluntary and Community Organisations

**Good Practice**

To promote equal opportunities policy and good practice in partnership working.

To develop where appropriate procedures and practices which are consistent with the functions of voluntary and community organisations.

To agree and share good practice.

To be open and transparent.

To comply with equal opportunities legislation and good practice guidance.

To promote effective working relationships.

To make 'purposeful outcomes for people', a key aim of monitoring, development and management.

To involve, where appropriate/relevant/practical, service users in monitoring, development and management of the voluntary organisation.

To be open and transparent.

To adequately resource a Joint Annual Review of the Derbyshire Compact and work with other key agencies to develop an Action Plan.

To promote the active involvement of representatives of all key agencies in the Joint Review and Action Plan.

To promote the adoption of the Compact by other relevant agencies.

To support and participate as appropriate in a Joint Annual Review of the Derbyshire Compact and the Action Plan.

To support the involvement of local Councils for Voluntary Service CVS's and other existing forums in the review process.

To promote the adoption of the Compact by others.

## **Annual Review of the Compact**

There will be an Annual Review of the Compact. It will include the nominated representatives of all key agencies. It will take into account local experience of putting the agreement into practice, national policy guidance and Codes of Good Practice.

Consideration will be given to any additions or amendments that may be necessary. On that basis an Action Plan will be developed for the following year. This will be designed to translate statements of principle into action.

Progress will be monitored against an agreed timetable. A revised Action Plan will result from each Joint Annual Review, ensuring the continued development of The Compact.

If you have any comments on this document or suggestions for what should be included in future years then please contact:

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