

SALFORD

**Compact on
Relations
between
the Statutory
and the
Third Sector
in Salford**

COMPACT

Salford Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Salford City Council

Salford Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)

**Compact on Relations between the Statutory Sector
and the
Third Sector in Salford
April 2006**

Revised September 2007

Message from the Initial partners

This Compact document and associated Codes of Good Practice have been developed by the initial Compact partners, Salford Council for Voluntary Service, Salford Primary Care Trust and Salford City Council following wide consultation during 2005.

The Salford Compact underpins the relationship between the Statutory Sector and the Third Sector IN Salford, with the aim of improving communication and understanding and strengthening our collective capacity to work together to improve the quality of life for Salford citizens.

This document sets out the Vision, Principles and Mutual Undertakings concerning partnership working between the Public Sector and the Voluntary and Community Sector or Third Sector in Salford. It covers issues of process rather than substance, i.e. the way plans are made and decisions taken – rather than the content of those plans and decisions.

We hope this document will be used as a positive force in driving forward partnership working in the future and that all partners in the Third Sector and the Public Sector will join us in signing up to the principles and practices outlined.

We all look forward to a bright future for partnership working in Salford.

Stuart Lewis
Chair of Salford
CVS

Cllr John Merry
Leader of Salford
City Council

Alan Campbell
Executive Director
of Strategic
Commissioning

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Introduction

- A Compact is a written understanding between the Public Sector and the Voluntary and Community Sector or Third Sector.
- It is intended to guide the process of working in partnership to deliver public services.
- It covers the whole spectrum of partnership working: from consultation and community involvement, through representation on planning bodies and participation in networks, to funding, procurement and contracting.
- It covers issues of process rather than substance; i.e. the way plans are made and decisions taken – rather than the content of those plans and decisions.
- A National Compact between central government and the Voluntary and Community Sector was first introduced in 1998.
- Since 1998 local Compacts have been developed in many districts between the Public Sector and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- In Salford the initial partners to the Compact are Salford Primary Care Trust, Salford City Council and Salford Council for Voluntary Service. It is hoped and expected that all Third Sector and Public Sector agencies will subsequently sign up to the Compact.

- In Salford we are using the term Third Sector to indicate a vision that includes community groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises, mutuals and cooperatives.
- The Compact development process builds on work carried out by others, from the Compact conference held in 2001 to the more recent work on good practice in consultation and community involvement carried out by Partners in Salford.
- The following subsequent Codes of Good Practice have been agreed:
 - Funding and Procurement
 - Volunteering
 - Community Involvement, Partnerships and Networks
 - Social Inclusion.

Shared Vision

1. The Salford Compact will underpin the relationship between the partners, improving communication and understanding and strengthening our collective capacity to work together to improve the quality of life for Salford citizens.
2. The Salford Compact will help to foster a thriving, diverse and independent Third Sector in Salford, with funding and contracting arrangements that:
 - are clear and easy to understand
 - are fair and consistent
 - target areas of greatest need
 - carry an administrative burden proportionate to the level of funding
 - permit and encourage effective forward planning.
3. The Salford Compact will help to ensure a shared focus on the needs of the most marginalised and disadvantaged individuals and communities in Salford, including both established and emerging minority ethnic communities.
4. The Salford Compact will help to ensure that the Third Sector not only participates in joint working and partnership structures but exercises a real influence on the planning and development of local services and public initiatives.

5. The Salford Compact will help to ensure a wider and more sustained recognition of the social and economic value of volunteering, in terms of both the personal and professional development of the volunteer and the public services provided.

6. The Salford Compact will promote the effective governance and management of both Public Sector and Third Sector agencies. It will underpin a shared commitment to building the capacity of Third Sector organisations. It will also encourage best practice in all sectors and seek continuous improvement in the planning and delivery of services.

Shared Principles

1. The Public Sector agencies and the Third Sector play different but complementary roles. The people of Salford will gain from our working together, particularly in shaping and delivering responsive and high quality public services.
2. Voluntary action and community involvement are an essential part of an inclusive and democratic society. An independent and diverse Third Sector is essential to the health of Salford communities.
3. Public Sector and Third Sector agencies will respect the confidentiality of each other's information provided for the purpose of supporting effective partnership working.
4. Individual Public Sector agencies and Third Sector organisations have their own objectives, priorities and ways of working and are answerable to different stakeholders. Relationships between them as partners must acknowledge the respective responsibilities and accountabilities of the different agencies and organisations.
5. The Salford Compact signatories must be committed to resolving any disagreements or differences of interpretation about any provisions of the Salford Compact in a constructive way, in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect.

Undertakings by the Public Sector Partners

1. The Public Sector partners recognise and support the independence of the Third Sector and it's right to determine and manage its own affairs. This includes it's right, within the law, to campaign, to comment on Public Sector policies and to challenge those policies irrespective of any funding or partnership relationship that might exist.
2. The Public Sector partners will continue to improve their practices in relation to the Third Sector by:
 - promoting effective partnership working
 - ensuring whenever possible that policy decisions are made public
 - recognising the important role and contribution of the many voluntary and community groups operating within the City
 - ensuring that Compact principles are embedded within their respective organisations by providing awareness/training for staff at all levels.
3. The Public Sector partners will support the development, implementation and monitoring of the Compact in line with the agreed Vision and Principles. This support will include:
 - ensuring that key staff are able to take part in this work
 - endorsing the need for detailed Codes of Good Practice to cover key issues, such as funding and procurement, consultation and policy development, volunteering and social inclusion
 - being prepared to review their own procedures and timetables in light of the Codes of Good Practice
 - endorsing the need for procedures for resolving disagreements
 - reviewing the operation of the Compact annually together with representatives from the Third Sector.

Undertakings by the Third Sector

1. The Third Sector will promote effective working relationships with Public Sector agencies. It will recognise the unique role and responsibilities of the Public Sector partners, including their duty to obtain best value for all public funds and to comment on and assess work carried out by the Third Sector that is financed by public sector funds.
2. Third Sector agencies will aim to ensure that service-users, volunteers, members, supporters and staff are informed and consulted about the organisation's activities and policy positions. They will reflect the views gathered through this consultation process when presenting a case to Public Sector agencies or responding to their consultations.
3. The Third Sector will strive to maintain high standards of governance and conduct and undertakes to meet reporting and accountability obligations to funders and service users. It will endeavour to involve service users and carers in the development and management of activities and services.
4. Agencies in the Third Sector will be encouraged to develop quality standards appropriate to the organisation, including promoting best practice and equality of opportunity in activities, employment, involvement of volunteers and service provision.

5. The Third Sector undertakes to respect and be accountable to the law. In the case of registered charities, they will observe the accounting framework and other appropriate guidance as laid down by the Charity Commission.

6. The Third Sector will support the development, implementation and monitoring of the Compact in line with the agreed Vision and Principles. This support will include:
 - ensuring that key staff are able to take part in this work
 - endorsing the need for detailed Codes of Good Practice to cover key issues such as funding and procurement, consultation and policy development, volunteering and social inclusion
 - being prepared to review their own procedures and timetables in light of the Codes of Good Practice
 - endorsing the need for procedures for resolving disagreements
 - reviewing the operation of the Compact annually together with representatives from the Public Sector partners.

Resolution of Disagreements

1. All parties to this Compact are committed to a meaningful and effective procedure for resolving disagreements. Responsibility for this will lie with a monitoring body made up of representatives from the Compact partners. Whilst noting that the Third Sector is not a unitary body, it is envisaged that all representatives will have appropriate authority to follow up any apparent breaches of the Compact within their own sector. In the case of the Public Sector partners, they will have the authority to seek resolution at a senior level.
2. Where there is difficulty resolving a disagreement locally, the national Compact Mediation Scheme will be seen as an appropriate next step, which may be invoked by any of the parties to the Compact without sanction.

Appendix A

Definitions

The term Public Sector is used to denote agencies which are part of or created by central or local government and which are, thereby, directly or indirectly accountable to the general public through some part of the electoral process.

The term Third Sector is used to denote agencies which are neither public sector nor profit - making. These will be typically voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises which have been created by and are accountable to their own governing bodies.

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To formally sign up to the Compact or for more information please go to www.communitiesinsalford.org.uk and select the Compact page.

Copies of all the Codes of Practice are also available here.

Alternatively, email: compact@salfordcvs.co.uk
or telephone 0161 787 7795.



Salford City Council

Salford **NHS**
Primary Care Trust