

A Snappy Guide to the East Sussex Compact

The National Compact (www.thecompact.org.uk)

- The Government published the National Compact in November 1998. It is a written understanding between the Government and the Community & Voluntary Sector which states a number of 'undertakings' about how the two sectors would work with and behave towards each other.

The East Sussex Compact

- The East Sussex Compact was launched in October 2003 and has been revised in July 2005. The aims of the East Sussex Compact are to:
 - agree principles and an effective framework for partnership working;
 - improve working relationships in order to provide more effective and co-ordinated services to communities;
 - improve consultation, communication, collaboration, trust and respect;
 - assist partner agencies in meeting common strategic aims.
- The principles are:
 - Recognising Diversity and Promoting Equality
 - Effective Community Engagement
 - Mutual Respect and Respecting Independence
 - Investment and Public Accountability
- Those who have developed and signed up to it include East Sussex County Council, Borough and District Councils, Primary Care Trusts, Voluntary and Community Organisations and Councils for Voluntary Services.
- Some District and Borough areas have also developed local Compacts which reflect local relationships, conditions and issues of concern.

Where can I find the Compact and the Codes?

Please note that this is a summary! The East Sussex Compact & Codes of Practice can be downloaded from:

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/partnerships/downloadcompact.htm

To discuss further, call Paul Rideout at East Sussex County Council on 01273 482911/ email paul.rideout@eastsussex.gov.uk or County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1SW.

Codes of Practice

The Codes of Practice are the '**teeth**' of the Compact. These are the guidelines that govern specific areas and make specific key commitments:

Funding and Procurement

- Promote and develop best practice in the funding relationship between the Statutory and Voluntary and Community sectors. Key principles are:
 - Focus on Outputs and Outcomes
 - Simplicity, Accessibility and Proportionality
 - Consistency and Co-ordination
 - Equality and Diversity
 - Transparency and Accountability
 - Discussion and Dialogue
 - Full Cost Recovery

Consultation and Policy Appraisal

- Clearly identify the objectives of the consultation and involve people at the earliest possibility, ensuring equality of participation.
- Allow **twelve weeks** for responses, unless this is prevented by legislative or other restrictions.
- Use appropriate techniques and observe confidentiality.
- Use existing consultation mechanisms and networks and co-ordinate wherever possible.
- Recognise & act on the results of consultation and give feedback.

Community Groups

- Recognise the importance of community groups and their networks
- Recognise the specific support needs of community groups and faith groups.

Volunteering

- Share, develop and implement good practice in volunteering.
- Work to tackle barriers to volunteering.
- Recognise the value of volunteering.
- Give volunteers the support, training and management that they need.

Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Groups

- Make a positive impact on the relationship between public bodies, the mainstream voluntary sector, and BME voluntary and community groups.
- Emphasise the important role of the BME sector in bringing a distinctive value to society, enabling BME individuals to contribute to public life and in supporting the creation of a more cohesive and inclusive society.

Code of Partnerships

- Promote awareness and build knowledge and understanding between sectors about working in partnership.
- Establish a framework for partners to work together more effectively to achieve common goals, to develop and deliver services and to build strong, cohesive and self-determining communities.