

working together

a local COMPACT
for North Somerset



Working Together – a Local Compact for North Somerset



What is a Compact?

This Compact is an agreement between public agencies and voluntary and community groups in North Somerset.

This is a living document that aims to improve

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Common understanding
- ◆ Confidence
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Trust
- ◆ Working relationships
- ◆ Delivery of services

between the voluntary and community groups and public agencies, so that they work together co-operatively for the benefit of all local people.

It has been written jointly by people from voluntary and community groups and public agencies.

This document and its use will be reviewed regularly by representatives from voluntary and community groups and public agencies.

See page 12 for further information about who was involved in this process.

We agree that:

- ◆ Public agencies and voluntary and community groups have distinct but complementary roles which are to be equally valued
- ◆ Genuine partnerships require integrity, understanding, accountability, honesty and openness with a real appreciation of the value of the contribution that each has to make
- ◆ Independent and creative voluntary action and community involvement are vital to a democratic society
- ◆ A diversity of opinions is to be encouraged and the contributions of all groups and agencies will be recognised.



To achieve this we will:

- ◆ work to achieve a mutual understanding of the roles and constraints facing both public agencies and voluntary and community groups
- ◆ listen to each other and respond constructively
- ◆ encourage freedom of expression within and between public agencies and voluntary and community groups and expect that this will include both criticism and praise
- ◆ provide colleagues with the information and support they need to implement this agreement
- ◆ work to secure the resources necessary to implement this process
- ◆ work in a way that aims for consensus agreements and encourages the resolution of conflict with an agreed process for breakdowns in negotiation
- ◆ promote and support a range of good quality voluntary and community activity and involvement
- ◆ take positive action to ensure that all people of North Somerset are enabled to express their views and participate in partnership working
- ◆ implement our local compact Codes of Practice
- ◆ monitor, evaluate and regularly review the Codes of Practice and their implementation.



During the next stages of our work we will:

- ◆ work together to develop the Codes of Practice
- ◆ ensure that key personnel within statutory agencies and voluntary and community groups are aware of these
- ◆ encourage more groups and organisations to sign up to the Compact
- ◆ establish an implementation group to monitor, review and evaluate the Compact and Codes of Practice and their implementation
- ◆ ensure membership of the steering group consists of representatives from both sectors
- ◆ aim to secure the resources necessary to sustain these activities.



CODES OF PRACTICE

This agreement will become part of everyday working practice through the implementation of Codes of Practice which cover the following topics:

- ◆ funding
- ◆ consultation and policy appraisal
- ◆ equalities and diversities
- ◆ volunteering
- ◆ community groups

Copies of these may be obtained from

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Tel no _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Minicom _____

Please state which format you require – further details are on the back page of this document.

If it's not working for you

Things don't always run smoothly or as they should. If you experience difficulty where a public agency or voluntary or community group in North Somerset is not acting according to this agreement or its associated codes of practice, please contact:

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Tel no _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Minicom _____





Please give us your views

We want to make sure that this agreement and series of Codes of Practice is implemented in a useful way.

If you have any comments about your experiences working with groups and agencies who have signed up to this Compact, or on how we could improve on this, then please do contact us.

You can use this form or contact:

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Tel no _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Minicom _____

or look at our website www.xxxxx and follow the links to xxxxx

Is this Compact easy to understand? YES
 NO

Does it cover the most important points? YES
 NO

Will it make a difference for your group or for you?
If so, how? YES
 NO

Are there any gaps in this Compact?

Have you any general comments to make?

Return you completed questionnaire (overleaf) to:

name
address
fax





We would like all public agencies and voluntary and community groups in North Somerset to sign up to this agreement. If you would like to give your support then please complete this page and return to:

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Tel no _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Minicom _____



I can confirm that we actively support this agreement

Please keep me informed about the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of this agreement and the associated Codes of Practice.

If you would like further copies of this document, please complete the form on the back page.

Name of group or agency _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

Email _____

Signed _____

Name _____

Position in group or agency _____



Definitions

Code of Practice	<p>Codes of Practice usually covering consultation and involvement, funding, diversity issues, volunteering, and community groups are drawn up to support Compact agreements. These detail the procedures to be followed to make the agreement a working reality.</p>
Community Development	<p>This is about building active and sustainable communities based upon social justice and mutual respect. It is about changing power structures to remove the barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives.</p>
Compact	<p>A Compact is an agreement between independent voluntary and community groups and the –public agencies such as Local Authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Police Authorities, Connexions and others. It...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Helps us understand and value the roles, nature and contribution of different kinds of organisations ◆ Has undertakings on both sides and mechanisms to make sure it works ◆ Sets standards for communication, consultation and support ◆ Provides a practical tool to help work together in formal partnerships and on the ground <p>A Local Compact agreement, properly established and implemented should enable groups and organisations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ contribute to the development of services needed by the community ◆ further their cause ◆ improve relationships with local authorities ◆ make best use of external funding ◆ become involved in best value and community planning.
Public agency	<p>An agency created by Government statute to undertake certain functions.</p> <p>Examples of public (or statutory) agencies are: North Somerset Council, North Somerset Primary Care Trust, Police Authorities, Health Authorities, Probation services.</p>
Voluntary organisations	<p>These are bodies whose activities are carried out in a not-for-profit way, but do not include public agency. The organisation would normally be formally constituted e.g. as a charity or company limited by guarantee and is likely to employ paid staff.</p>
Community groups	<p>These are local groups which are substantially controlled by local residents acting in a voluntary capacity. They may or may not have some paid staff.</p>

We would like to thank the following groups and people for their contribution to the writing of this Compact Statement

- ◆ ACAD
- ◆ Amnesty International
- ◆ Axe District Scouts
- ◆ Battle Against Tranquilisers
- ◆ Care Forum
- ◆ Community Group Forum
- ◆ Crossroads Carers Association
- ◆ Environmental Network NS
- ◆ North Somerset Council
- ◆ North Somerset Society of Disabled Artists
- ◆ Pre School Learning Alliance
- ◆ RSVP
- ◆ St John Ambulance
- ◆ Sanctuary Housing
- ◆ Victim Support
- ◆ Weston Division Girl Guiding

And the members of the
Local Compact Steering Group:

- ◆ Community Action
- ◆ Connexions West of England
- ◆ North Somerset Community Group Forum
- ◆ North Somerset Council
- ◆ North Somerset PCT
- ◆ Somerset REC
- ◆ The Care Forum
- ◆ Volunteer Centre North Somerset

If you would like a copy of this document in another format ...

This document is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request.

Help is also available for people who require the document in languages other than English.

Please contact: **01275 888 638**



North Somerset Council and the North Somerset Partnership have adopted the principles laid out in this document. Those voluntary and community groups who have participated in the process so far support these principles and look forward to their wider dissemination and adoption.

This information was accurate at the time of printing (June 2005).

**North Somerset
COMPACT**

