

The Stockton-on-Tees Borough Compact

April 2018 to March 2021



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Big plans, bright future

Contents

Foreword	3
1. What is a Compact?	4
2. Common Principles	5
3. Improving Communication and Consultation	6
4. Funding and Resources	7
5. Conflict Resolution	9
6. Glossary	10
7. Contacts	11
8. Partners	11

Foreword by the Chair of Stockton Strategic Partnership and the Chair of Catalyst

We welcome this refreshed Compact (agreement) as a guide to how we can work together to improve the lives of the residents of the borough Stockton-on-Tees borough.

The relationship between the public sector and the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise Sector in the Borough has grown and flourished over a number of years. This is reflected in the continued support provided to the sector by Stockton Borough Council and Catalyst, despite the challenging financial landscape. This includes the on-going development, by the Council and Catalyst, of a dynamic package of support for the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise Sector which includes training, investment and capacity building.

This refreshed Compact was developed jointly with key Stockton Strategic Partnership partners including: the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cleveland Police, Job Centre Plus, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group, and infrastructure Voluntary Community Social Enterprise Sector organisations.

We look forward to continuing to work together in the future.

Bob Cook

Leader of Stockton Council and
Chair of Stockton Strategic Partnership



Guru Naidoo

Chair of Catalyst



1. What is a Compact?

Compact is simply another term for an agreement. This Compact is the agreement between the Public Sector and the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise Sector (hereby referred to as the VCSE) in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. The Compact outlines how all parties will work together giving a framework for how we can work in the future. It is a jointly agreed document between representatives of the interests of the VCSE sector and the public sector who share a fundamental aim to serve and represent the interests of local people and communities. The Compact is not a legal document; it is a public statement of intent. It is a mutual agreement between those organisations who wish to sign up to it.

In addition, both sectors acknowledge the importance of promoting equal opportunities for all people, regardless of race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or religious belief. They will work together to develop mechanisms, which not only accommodate specialist independent groups, but actively promote the inclusion of such groups.

The Compact is a partnership of principles, drawn up by the statutory and VCSE sectors, whereby all parties agree to work together, recognise, and value the diversity that exists in society generally and in Stockton-on-Tees.



2. Common Principles

The following common principles have been agreed as a basis for the Compact:

- Partners should respect the confidentiality of any information provided by each sector when given access to it, respect different organisational cultures, respect each other, behave professionally and avoid personalising issues;
- Public Sector and the VCSE sector are accountable in different ways, but both need to act with transparency and integrity. Effective partnerships are built on mutual understanding, trust and an appreciation of the differences between partners of the Compact;
- The Public Sector recognises the independence of the VCSE sector and its right to challenge policies and practices of the Public Sector and its right to determine and manage its own affairs;
- The VCSE sector recognises that the Public Sector has certain statutory responsibilities and constraints placed upon it;
- Both the Public Sector and the VCSE sector acknowledge the need to be inclusive and that the Compact reflects the needs and aspirations of all people who the sector helps;
- The Public Sector and the VCSE sector are committed to promoting voluntary activity and to value the contributions of individual volunteers across the Borough;
- Fairness for everyone and protecting people from discrimination, regardless of their background, is a fundamental goal. Both the public sector partners and the VCSE will work together to achieve this.

3. Improving Communication and Consultation

The Public Sector and the VCSE sector are committed to sharing information and communicating effectively with each other.

Key Principles

- The Public Sector and the VCSE sector are committed to sharing information to ensure that their aims are fully understood by each other and by the public;
- The Public Sector will seek to promote partnerships with the VCSE sector, the private sector and statutory organisations;
- The Public Sector will consult the VCSE sector on issues which may affect them or their users/clients;
- The Public Sector will allow adequate time for consultation, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks, where possible, for wider consultations;
- The Public Sector will ensure that as part of a consultation exercise it is clear what the parameters are and what can realistically be achieved;
- The Public Sector will ensure that materials for a consultation are available in accessible formats;
- The VCSE sector will involve service users, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees when preparing responses to consultations;
- The Public Sector will involve the VCSE sector in policy development at the earliest possible stage, in all relevant issues likely to affect it. Informing the sector of progress in developing policy and identifying implications for the VCSE when assessing the impact of new policies, legislation and guidance.



4. Funding and Resources

The Public Sector and the VCSE acknowledge that access to adequate funding and resources underlies the effectiveness in meeting the needs of local people.

Key Principles

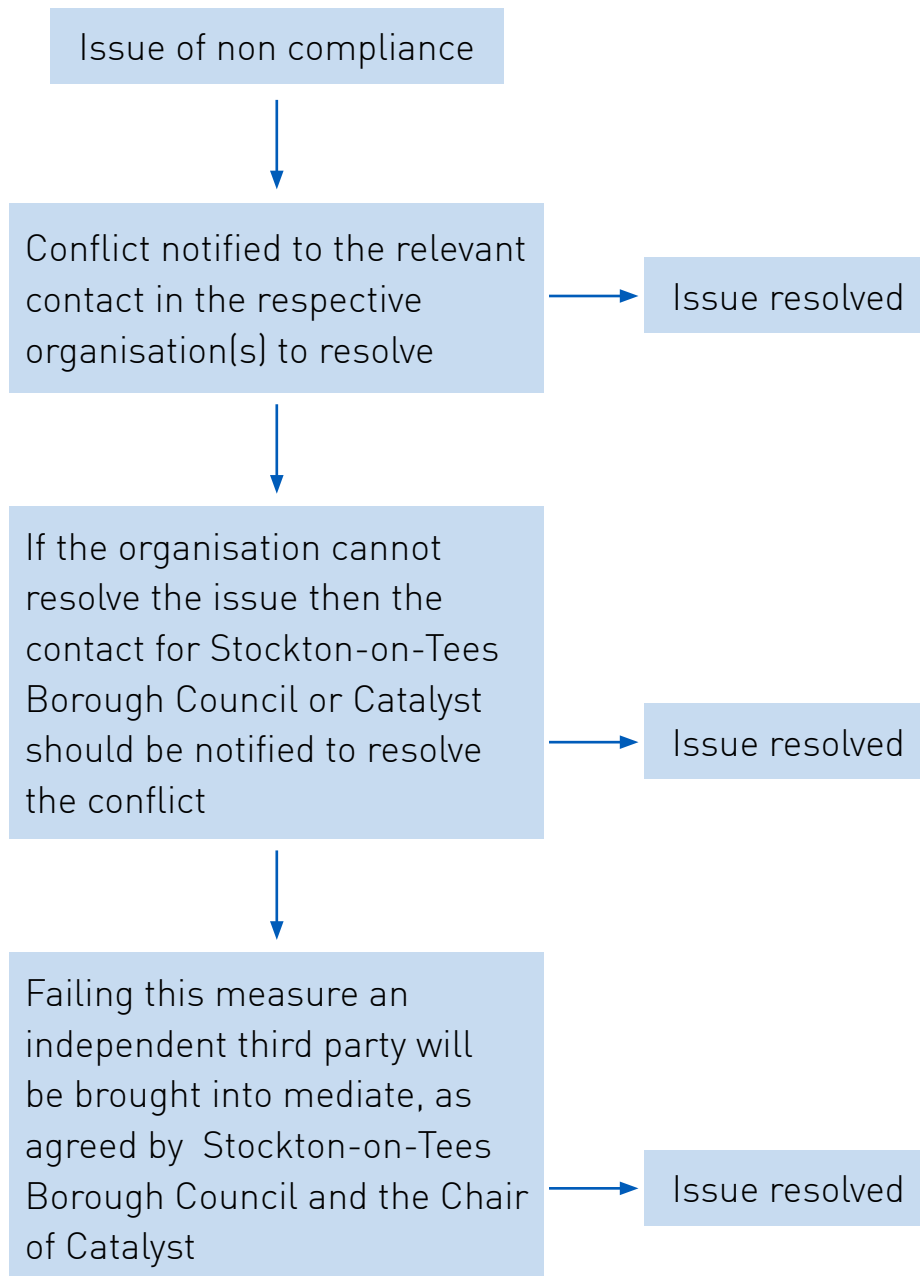
- The VCSE Sector recognises the need for accountability when receiving public money and provide information on how funding has been utilised;
- The VCSE sector will develop and share its resources for the good of all members of the community to which its terms apply;
- The Public Sector will inform the VCSE sector about its criteria and priorities for funding and recognise that it is appropriate to include overhead and administrative costs in applications, and to accept the recovery of costs associated with volunteering;
- The Public Sector will make funding decisions according to clear and consistent criteria;
- The Public Sector will consider different ways of commissioning organisations who work with the Public Sector. These methods could include contracts, loan finance, grants, training, use of premises, or other support. A clear rationale should be provided for the decision;
- The Public Sector will ensure that the size and scale of the commissioning arrangements reflect the project's objectives and attract those organisations best placed to deliver the required outcomes;
- The Public Sector will ensure that tender processes are consistent with overarching Office of Government Commerce (OGC) guidance on public procurement and any agreed regional approaches;
- The Public Sector and the VCSE sector will ensure appropriate monitoring is in place as it can reduce costs, time and resources for both sides, and means that time and effort can be focussed on delivering results;

- The VCSE sector will ensure that contingency planning for the end of a contract or grant is always included within applications as it can help minimise the impact on beneficiaries. Planning in this way can help with long-term sustainability;
- The VCSE and Public Sector will begin planning programmes and services well in advance of the expected start date and ensuring that any relevant VCSE organisations are involved from the beginning.
- The Public Sector undertake to give a minimum of three months' notice in writing when ending a commission and give a clear rationale for why the decision has been taken, subject to the Public Sector having received three months' notice from central government where applicable.



5. Conflict Resolution

The public and VCSE sectors will attempt to resolve all conflicts within the spirit of the agreed principles in the Compact. In the event that an issue arises the following process to seek resolution will be followed:



6. Compact Glossary of Terms

Organisation Used to refer to any group of people who come together for a common purpose and have some agreed rules for how they operate together.

These rules are usually written into a governing document, however for some organisations they may be verbal.

Voluntary Community Social Enterprise Sector This includes groups/organisations whose activities are carried out for social and/or community benefit, and whose profit is used for social and/or community benefit. They are not public or local authorities or a private sector. These organisations would normally be formally constituted and may employ professional staff and may use volunteers.

Resources This term includes the following: funds, equipment, accommodation, information, skills and knowledge.

Partnerships A relationship usually involving close cooperation between parties, (in this case organisations) having specified and joint responsibilities. The word responsibilities brings to mind the notion of tasks that each party is accountable for in the relationship.

Public Sector organisations operate by statute or law and are regulated by Central Government. Organisations that form the public sector include local Councils, the Police, Police & Crime Commissioner, Clinical Commissioning Group, Fire and Rescue Service, Jobcentre Plus, and health organisations including the NHS and Mental Health Trusts.



7. Contact Details

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8. Compact Partners

This Compact applies to the relationship and activities of the following public and voluntary Community Social Enterprise Sector partners:-



Part of the Department
for Work and Pensions



If you would like this information in any other language or format, for example large print or audio, please contact the Council's Consultation, Communication and Engagement Team on 01642 526032.

إذا كنت ترغب الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغات أو بأشكال أخرى على سبيل المثال بالطبعة الكبيرة أو بالشريط المسجل فالرجاء الإتصال 'بدايفرستي تيم' على هاتف رقم 01642 526032 Engagement Team

ARABIC

اگر شما این اطلاعات را به زبان یا شکل دیگری مثلا چاپ بزرگ یا بصورت صدا میخواهید لطفا با تیم دایورسیتی (گونگونگی) Engagement Team با شما رده 01642 526032 به تماس شوید

FARSI

Si vous souhaitez obtenir ces informations dans d'autres langues ou sous un autre format, par exemple, en gros caractères / version audio, veuillez contacter l'équipe Engagement Team au n° 01642 526032

FRENCH

ئەگەر حەزرت لێ بە ئەم زانیاریە بە دەستت بکەویت بە زمانەکانی تریان بە شێوەیەکی تر بۆ نمونە چاپی گەورە/یان بە تێپی توومارکراو تکایە پەویەندی بکە بە 'تیمی دایفیرستی' 01642 526032 Engagement Team لە سەر ژمارە ی تەلەفۆن

KURDISH

欲要這份資訊的其它語言版或其它版式例如大字體印刷/錄音帶，請致電 01642 526032 接洽 '多元化隊' Engagement Team

CHINESE

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਬਣਤਰ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ, ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਟੇਪ/ਸੀ ਡੀ 'ਤੇ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 01642 526032 ਨੂੰ Engagement Team ਨੰਬਰ ਉੱਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

PUNJABI

اگر آپ ان معلومات کو کسی بھی اور زبان یا انداز، مثلاً بڑے پرنٹ/آڈیو ٹیپ وغیرہ میں حاصل کرنا چاہیں، تو 'ڈایورسٹی ٹیم' Engagement Team کو اس نمبر پر فون کیجئے 01642 526032

URDU



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