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Foreword

Paul Carter - Chairman - Kent Partnership

An overview of why the public sector will benefit from being involved in the Kent Partners Compact

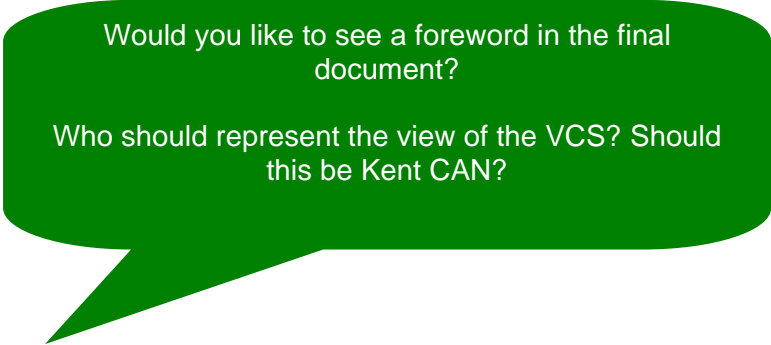
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OPTIONAL

VCS Voice/Perspective

An overview of why the VCS will benefit from being involved in the Kent Partners Compact

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Would you like to see a foreword in the final document?

Who should represent the view of the VCS? Should this be Kent CAN?

Introduction

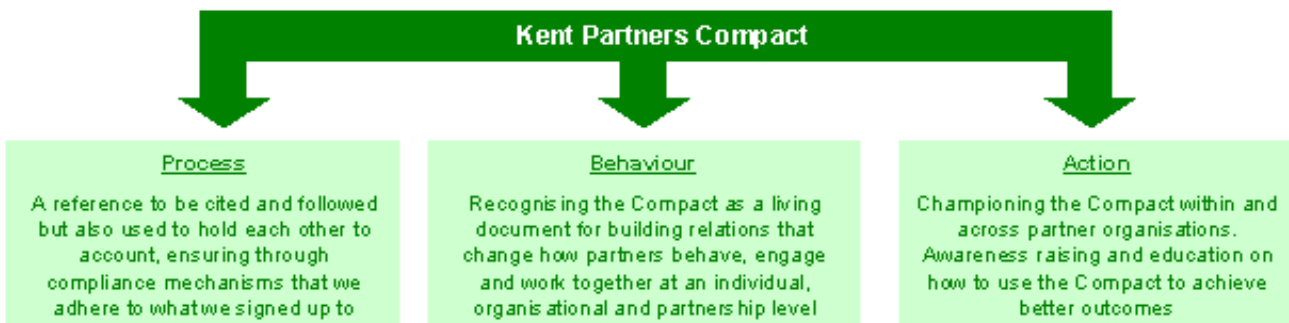
The Kent Partners Compact is a partnership agreement between the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) and the Public Sector in Kent - a jointly agreed framework of principles to guide their future working relationship, for mutual, purposeful and positive benefit for the Kent community.

It is an expression of the desire of the VCS and the Public Sector:

- working together – to be better together
- getting the relationships right together

Compacts focus on the relationship between the VCS and the Public Sector. The overarching aim is to define and improve this relationship in order that the two sectors may work together more productively.

It is a framework where shared respect, understanding and fair treatment are the building blocks for real partnership. Setting out how the two sectors will work together is the purpose of the Compact.



The Local Government Act 2000 charged local authorities with the responsibility of community leadership and of promoting the well-being of local communities. Community engagement has come to the fore in partnership working through Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships. It is important to align Compacts with these initiatives.

How do we do this?
Could it be decided in local action plans?

The VCS has a vital role to play in society and in the delivery and development of excellent public services to the people of Kent. Thousands of people across the county are involved in voluntary and community organisations, dedicating their time and skills freely to local communities. They provide statutory services on our behalf, recruit volunteers, support individuals and groups and provide many other services that contribute enormously to the quality of life people enjoy.

The Kent Partners Compact will be used as an effective tool to bring the two sectors together. With 99% of local authority areas now covered by Compacts, the challenge is now to build on implementation. Resources for the VCS and Public Sector for Compact development and implementation has always been an important issue, and will need careful consideration by all partners to ensure that the aspirations of the Compact are delivered.

Do we need to address the issue of resources in the document, and if so how?

Setting The Scene

The Story of Compacts

1998	National Compact established
2004	All Local Authorities required to have a Compact
2005	Commission for the Compact established
2005	Strengthening Partnerships: Next Steps for Compact published
2005/06	Compact Plus
2006	New Compact Commissioner appointed

The Kent Perspective

The Kent Compact (an Agreement between Kent County Council and the VCS in Kent) is lead by the **Kent Compact Implementation Group** (CIG). This group is composed of representatives from KCC and representatives from Kent CAN.

Kent CAN aims to bring together the VCS across Kent at a county level. It co-ordinates VCS representation and asks those on the steering group to heed and adhere to its representation protocol.

The purpose of the group is as follows:

- To lead and develop a fluid action plan derived from the commitments made in the Compact
- To act as a central point of reference for queries on the relationship between VCS & Public Sector
- To advise in the case of breaches of the Compact where disputes cannot be resolved

Many districts across Kent have their own **Compacts and codes of practice** that reflect local priorities. The existing Compacts are a significant part of partnership working in Kent. The new challenge is to ensure effective implementation to deliver mutual advantage and community gain. Decisions will be made at a local level on how District Compacts will engage with in the Kent Partners Compact.

Building On Firm Foundations

A "**Compacts in Kent**" group was formed in 2005. Representatives from local Compact groups came together to discuss recent developments and issues. The group helped to identify areas of best practice that we could draw lessons from.

This year Kent received a national commendation during the national review of Compacts for its work on Compact promotion, championing, progress and use. A record 28 commendations were made and amongst them was the Compacts in Kent Group work for shared best practice between Kent County Council, districts and VCS partners via a network of Compact champions, a family of quality arrangements and strengthened sector infrastructure for Kent. This has paved the way for the Kent Partners Compact.

In early 2006 members of the Compacts in Kent working group agreed that their original remit to share and develop best practice on the development of local compacts had been largely met. It was also agreed that this initial work had created new needs, specifically to support the implementation of compacts and a compact way of working across, and within, the VCS and Public Sector.

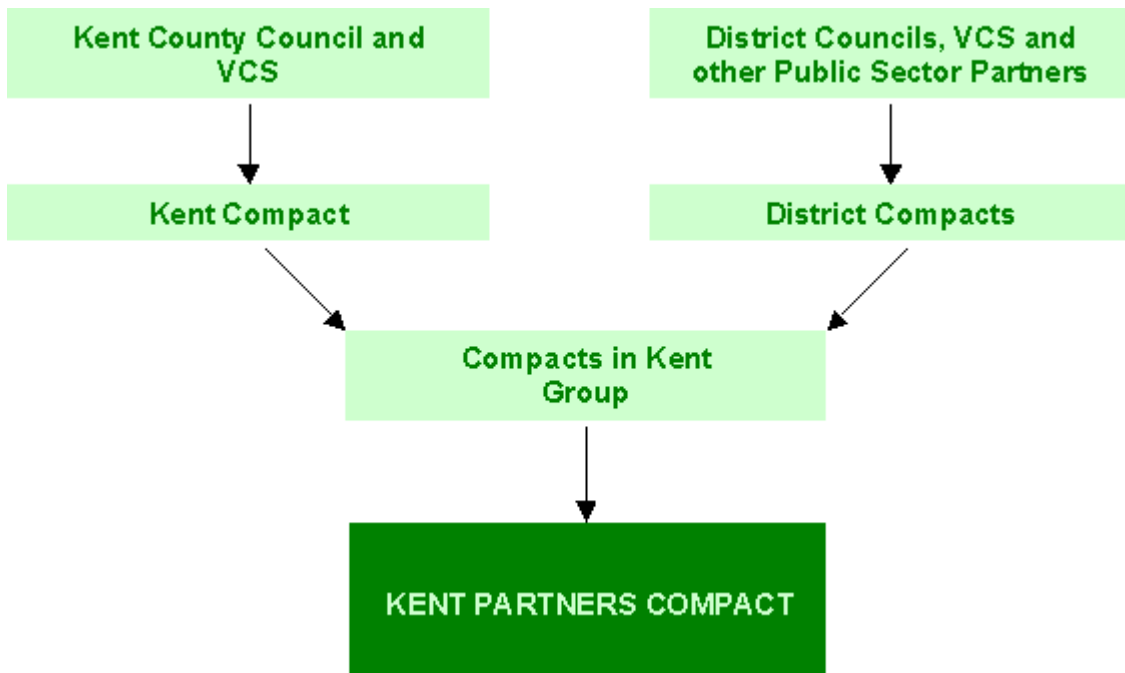
An analysis was carried out to consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of how to take Compacts to the next level. The analysis identified that a Kent Partners Compact could add weight to existing Compacts by raising their profile, setting universal standards and providing

'strength in numbers' credibility. This in turn would promote implementation, facilitate cross-district/organisation working and help to gain the "buy in" of all Public Sector bodies.

The group identified possible risks with pursuing the idea of a Kent Partners Compact. These included confusion, unnecessary bureaucracy, disengagement and apathy towards the Compact process.

This issue was carefully considered and a decision was made that the risks could be addressed by the way the Kent Partner's Compact is organised and communicated. With care and attention, the opportunities can be maximised and it is a risk worth taking.

The relationships between different Compacts in Kent



For further information on any of the existing Compacts in Kent and their plans to engage in the Kent Partners Compact please contact your local representative, through details on the Contacts page of this document (p.20).

Do we need all this as part of the history of the Compacts in Kent Group?

Is there anything we have missed out?

What's In It For Me?

The Benefits of Being Part of the Kent Partners Compact

The development of a Kent Partners Compact is innovative. The reason for changing to a Kent-wide compact is to make the relationship more clear and simple between public sector bodies and between the VCS and the public sector. It helps to avoid duplication and confusion for organisations working across more than one area, with multiple Compacts.

This does not mean that all existing district and county compacts are merged into one - the Kent Partners Compact adds value to existing agreements by building on common ground and good practice which has gone before.

Decisions will be made at a local level on whether to adopt the new Kent Partners Compact with local level action plan or to continue to use an existing local Compact.

An alternative option includes adopting it as a new or first Compact if your organisation has not had or been involved in Compacts previously.

The Kent Partners Compact will:

- **Improve outcomes for the people of Kent through local implementation and development**
- **Be of mutual advantage to all partners**
- **Add value by engaging multiple public sector partners, beyond just local authorities**
- **Help create a more consistent and productive relationship between the VCS and Public Sector**
- **Address any longstanding issues between the VCS and Public Sector**
- **Set a framework for effective consultation, representation and partnership working**
- **Minimise confusion and duplication by having a single document and set of codes of practice**
- **Provide a new Compact for organisations who haven't previously been involved, or that are not signed up to local Compacts**
- **Enhance two-tier working between county and district councils**

How will it deliver?

The Kent Partners Compact requires support from partners at a local level and wide-ranging sign up from the VCS and Public Sector to be successful.

It will be a tool that empowers people to challenge process and behaviour. Local action plans will define successful Compact implementation and development.

The Codes of Practice featured in this document are the means to ensure Compact compliance, and are the tools through which the Compact will become operational.

Who is involved?

The Kent Partnership brings together representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors who have an interest in the future well-being of the county.

It was formed in 2002 as the **Local Strategic Partnership** (LSP) for Kent, recognising that partnership working is more effective than organisations working independently.

The Kent Partnership sponsors the Kent Partners Compact, and fully supports it as part of its commitment to the Vision for Kent - the countywide Sustainable Community Strategy. This encourages the LSP to "create a framework for positive change and a proactive relationship between partners and the voluntary & community sector".

The Kent Partnership has close links with the 9 District LSPs across the county which bring together partners from the VCS, public & private sector together at a district/borough boundary level. District LSPs will play a part in implementing the Kent Partners Compact at a local level, complementing any existing or ongoing local Compact work.

Voluntary & Community Sector Partners

⇒ **Kent CAN** is a county level Voluntary & Community Sector Infrastructure Organisation that is represented on the Kent Partnership. Kent CAN takes action to ensure that the VCS has a voice in Kent to benefit the people the sector works to help.

Kent CAN focuses its work on two key issues to ensure the strong voice of the VCS: representation & leadership as part of improving the infrastructure of the sector.

⇒ **Local/Individual Voluntary & Community Organisations** play a vital role in Compact, and may choose to endorse this way of working. Further information on this is detailed in the Compacts in Kent section.

Public Sector Partners

We hope the following organisations will sign up to the Kent Partners Compact:

- ⇒ **District Councils**
- ⇒ **Eastern & Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust**
- ⇒ **Kent County Council**
- ⇒ **Kent Fire & Rescue Service**
- ⇒ **Kent & Medway Learning & Skills Council**
- ⇒ **Kent Police**
- ⇒ **Kent Probation**
- ⇒ **South East Coast Ambulance Trust**
- ⇒ **South East Coast Strategic Health Authority**
- ⇒ **West Kent Primary Care Trust**

Are there any others we have missed here?

Does your organisation...

- a) Support the guiding principles set out in the Kent Partners Compact?
- b) Sign up to the Codes of Practice in the Kent Partners Compact?
- c) Sign up as part of the Kent Partnership, or as a separate entity?

Working Together - To Be Better Together

A Definition of Partnership

"An Agreement between two or more independent bodies to work together collectively to achieve an objective" (National Audit Office, 2004)

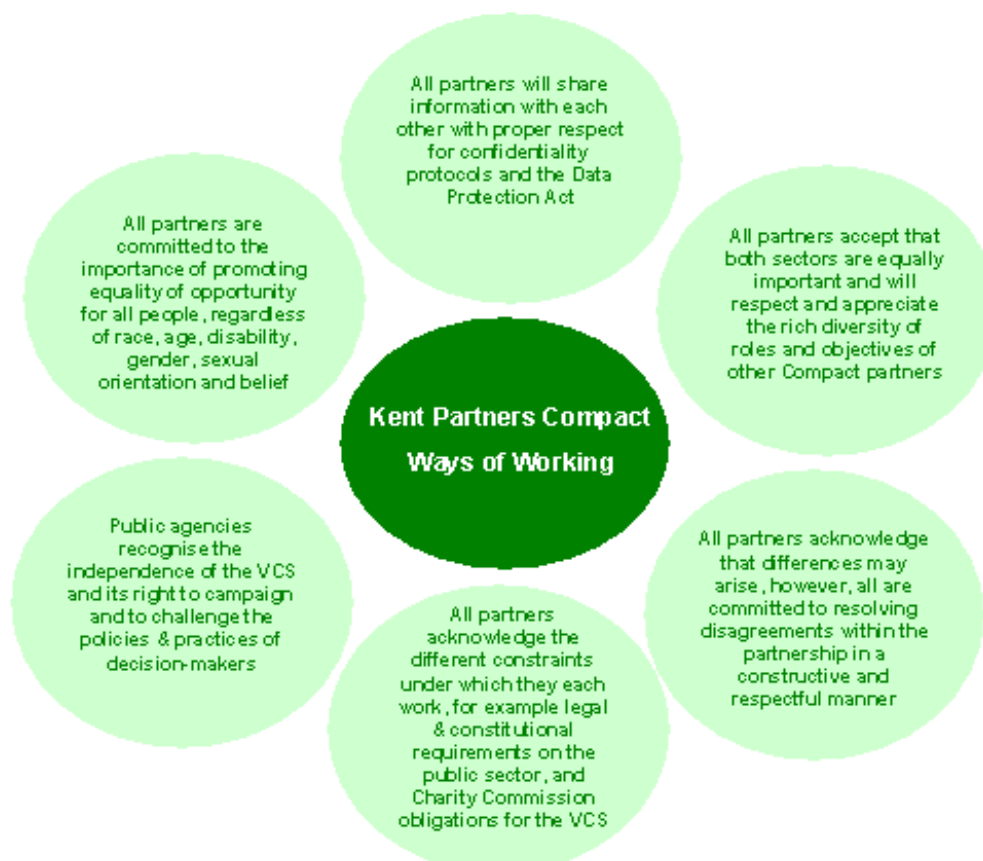
The Kent Partners Compact will help us all work together in the spirit of partnership working - but what do we mean by that?

"Partnership members share resources and responsibilities and agree to work together in a co-operative and mutually supportive fashion to achieve the shared goal" (KCF Creative Partnership Guide)

The purpose of this Compact is to encourage closer working and co-operation between the partners for the benefit of the people of Kent. It builds on the shared values of our partners including:

- Openness
- Honesty
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Respect
- Trust
- Confidence
- Objectivity
- Understanding
- Transparency
- Common purpose
- Leadership
- Good communications
- Listening

The following principles form the basis for a **Compact way of working**. They are the shared values that all signatories are committed to working by. Further detail on implementation and development are in the Codes of Practice.



Compact Plus

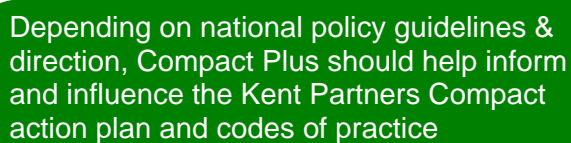
In 2005 the Home Office launched the consultation document "**Compact Plus - Strengthening Partnerships: Next Steps for the Compact**".

The intention of Compact Plus is to build a national Compact through the development of a more succinct tool so that it would be clearer to organisations whether their behaviour was Compact compliant or not.

What does Compact Plus mean for Kent?

At the time of launching this Kent Partners Compact consultation document, further information regarding Compact Plus implementation is awaited.

In the event that this is published during the consultation period (September to November 2007) further details will be available on the Kent Partnership website - www.kentpartnership.org.uk.



Depending on national policy guidelines & direction, Compact Plus should help inform and influence the Kent Partners Compact action plan and codes of practice

Kent Partners Compact Codes of Practice

What are Codes of Practice?

Codes of Practice are the way the Kent Partners Compact will become operational. They provide consistency to the way we work and embed the Compact way of working into everyday business. Without codes there will be limitations to what can be implemented, challenged and developed.

It is important to remember that this document is a developmental stage of Compact work that has progressed in Kent and its communities over the past few years. The work developed previously should not be lost, it should be embedded in the new document allowing what has worked to become enhanced, and a new approach considered to that which has not worked.

The codes need to be **SMART** (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed) for successful implementation and linked to local action plans.

Codes of Practice have a vital role to play in Local Area Agreements, especially Kent Agreement 2. Codes of Practice should support, amongst other things, the priorities within the Kent Infrastructure Development Plan. The Kent Consortium Delivery Board (KCDB) is the delivery mechanism for implementing the plan.

We want your opinions on the framework of the codes. We aim to have a focus day to develop each of the codes reflecting on the subject matter to date, as a key part of the consultation process. We would also welcome your thoughts about all aspects of the content of the codes.

Suggested Codes of Practice

Four codes of practice for the Kent Partners Compact are proposed to reflect the national codes:

- **Funding, Procurement, Resources and Commissioning**
- **Volunteering Code**
- **Consultation Code**
- **Equality and Diversity Code**

Some of these codes may require sub-codes to better reflect local circumstances or specific needs. For example the Equality and Diversity Code may require sub-codes on BME, Faith, Traveller & Gypsy, Carers, Young People etc.

Suggested framework for codes

For ease and clarity a simple, consistent structure for each code has been proposed:

- **Aim** - an overall expression of what the codes aims to achieve
- **VCS undertakings** - actions or principles that the VCS will implement
- **Public Sector undertakings** - actions or principles that the VCS will implement
- **All partners agree to be mindful of/develop**- actions everyone can endorse that can be further defined in local action plans
- **Case Study**

Let us know your views...

Could this framework work in your area?

Do we need Kent actions that apply to all partners?

Are local actions plans the way forward for implementation?

Have you got any other suggestions or alternatives?

Do you know of any case studies or good news stories?

Kent Partners Compact Code of Practice: ***Funding, Procurement, Resources and Commissioning***

Why is it important?

This is a fundamentally important code for the Kent Partners Compact. Funding delivers the objectives of both the service provider and that of the commissioning body. This code should aim to reflect and address the complexities when organisations are funded by a variety of different bodies to deliver a multitude of diverse services for communities in Kent. Whilst delivering these services organisations must also deliver a value for money service, ensuring maximum benefit to both direct and indirect beneficiaries, encouraging community cohesion at its best.

Aim

This code aims to promote more accessible funding, including in kind support and procurement processes, and working to ensure Compact principles are embedded in all funding practices.

VCS undertakings

e.g. Understanding and using full cost recovery for their benefit e.g. maintaining robust accounting and reporting procedures

Public Sector undertakings

e.g. In line with the Change Up agenda adopt a strategic approach to the funding of VCS infrastructure for example grant procedures fully publicised

All partners agree to be mindful of/develop...

For example:

- Local Compact Steering groups with responsibility to deliver the Kent Partners Compact principles and agreed priorities within the action plan.
- Steering group supported to develop key performance indicators
- Make suitable mention of this Compact and Codes of Practice in relation to funding and procurement
- Three year funding where appropriate
- Agreed, consistent principle and approach to full cost recovery

Case Study

e.g. VCS involved in development and consultation of KCC's service agreements and grant agreements with Kent Adult Social Services, based on outcome based specifications

Let us know your views...

Is the title for this code the right one? Do you have an alternative suggestion - perhaps based on local codes?

What do you think of the Aim?

Have you any suggestions for VCS undertakings?

Have you any suggestions for Public Sector undertakings?

Have you got any suggestions for partner actions, or should this detail be in local action plans?

Do you know of any case studies or good news stories?

Kent Partners Compact Code of Practice: *Volunteering*

Why is it important?

Volunteering is the commitment of time and energy by an individual and/or given collectively for a shared aim. It is freely given. Volunteering is only one aspect of what the VCS can offer and that increasingly the Public Sector are engaging with. With the 2012 Olympics legacy, volunteering is set to become a much greater and attractive trend over the coming years.

Aim

This code aims to increase understanding, raise awareness and embrace the roles of volunteering in relation to diversity, choice, mutual benefit and recognition

VCS undertakings

E.g. 19 Volunteer Centres/Bureaux

Public Sector undertakings

E.g. KCC's Towards 2010 Target on volunteering

All partners agree to be mindful of/develop...

For example:

- Identify Champions on a local level to support, raise awareness and implement this code
- Makes suitable mention of the Compact and this code in all partner documentation in relation to volunteering
- Embrace the concept of the Kent 2012 Olympic Campaign
- Support the concept of a Kent Centre of Volunteering Excellence (Kent COVE) as described in the KIDP.
- Steering groups at a Local Compact level with the responsibility of delivering the Compact principles and the agreed priorities within the action plan.
- Steering group to develop key performance indicators through a performance management framework

Case Study

E.g. Special Constables - Kent Police

Let us know your views...

Is the title for this code the right one? Do you have an alternative suggestion - perhaps based on local codes?

What do you think of the Aim?

Have you any suggestions for VCS undertakings?

Have you any suggestions for Public Sector undertakings?

Have you got any suggestions for partner actions, or should this detail be in local action plans?

Do you know of any case studies or good news stories?

Kent Partners Compact Code of Practice: *Consultation*

Why is it important?

It is important that we recognise the principles of The Kent Partners Compact when applying this code. It relates specifically to consultation with the VCS. This code does not take into consideration consultations that are required as statute, such as planning applications and highways proposals where consultation periods may differ substantially. The requirements of statute and performance indicators must take preference and as such are not covered by this code.

Aim

This code aims to ensure that the VCS is able to comment on and influence policy, strategy and service delivery plans.

VCS undertakings

E.g. Sharing information on consultations

Public Sector undertakings

For example:

- Provide the opportunity for the VCS to have an early and unhurried input into appropriate policy development
- 12 weeks consultation as per the national standard, with a **minimum** of 8 weeks
- Joint discussion within an agreed forum on what the consultation will cover

All partners agree to be mindful of/develop...

For example:

- Work together to lobby Central Government for early publication of consultation timetables and realistic timescale for consultation processes
- Use existing forums for consultation, building on and improving in order to reach new and diverse audiences resulting in the potential for co-ordinated approach (s) and response (s)
- Aim to use language that is simple and clear, but also to educate partners on terminology used ensure understanding
- Successful implementation of the Compact, the codes and increased ongoing dialogue between the two sectors, may mean that there will joint responses through mechanisms and processes such as local Compact Action Groups, Kent Agreement Outcome groups and through the family of themes within each district LSP.

Case Study

e.g. Vision for Kent Consultation Process, Learning Strategy in Swale

Let us know your views...

Is the title for this code the right one? Do you have an alternative suggestion - perhaps based on local codes?

What do you think of the Aim?

Have you any suggestions for VCS undertakings?

Have you any suggestions for Public Sector undertakings?

Have you got any suggestions for partner actions, or should this detail be in local action plans? Do you know of any case studies or good news stories?

Kent Partners Compact Code of Practice: ***Equality and Diversity***

Why is it important?

Kent has a diverse range of communities, with specific needs, that the VCS and Public Sector provide support and services to.

Aim

This code aims to ensure that all sections of the community are equally reflected and supported partnership work through the recognition of this code and it's actions

VCS undertakings

Examples

Public Sector undertakings

Examples

All partners agree to be mindful of/develop...

For example:

- Ensure the promotion of equal opportunities, good community relationships and that all unlawful discrimination is challenged
- Whilst implementing this code through local steering groups take into consideration good and best practice already in existence and to seek guidance and support from those working in the field with members of our community who have very specific needs.
- To work in partnership with the Kent BME network
- Make suitable mention of the Compact and this code of Practice in all partner documentation relating to equality and diversity
- Identify local champions to support, raise awareness and implement

Case Study

Example: North West Kent Racial Equality Council

Let us know your views...

Is the title for this code the right one? Do you have an alternative suggestion - perhaps based on local codes?

What do you think of the Aim?

Have you any suggestions for VCS undertakings?

Have you any suggestions for Public Sector undertakings?

Have you got any suggestions for partner actions, or should this detail be in local action plans?

Do you know of any case studies or good news stories?

Implementation

It is important for the Kent Partners Compact to build on and strengthen the existing solid basis of Codes of Practice and actions plans at a local level with cross-sectoral participation. Through working together with better communication we can strengthen their impact through compliance and implementation. Action plans can encourage the relationships that has been defined in the Kent Partners Compact to move to new levels.

It is crucial to identify Performance Indicators (PI's) to measure success. PI's can be identified within local action plans and they will feed into any partners action plan. This in turn should assist the resourcing process of Compact implementation on a local level.

Compact principles and codes should be sown into sustainable community strategies, Kent Agreement outcomes and local plans/strategies. This can be carried out through careful negotiation within any action plans drawn up at a local level.

If we don't do this then we have failed to implement the Kent Partners Compact as a developmental stage of existing and previous work.

This consultation asks you to consider several implementation options - the preferred ones will be actioned by the Kent Partners Compact Task Group. It would be helpful if you could indicate which are your preferences.

Options for Action

Please rate 1-3 in order of preference (1 = most preferred option)

Option	Rating (1-3)
Shared Action Plan, based on the principles in the Kent Partners Compact - The partners could develop together relevant and appropriate indicators to show whether a 'compact way of working' is being adopted	
Individual Action Plans, based on existing local Compacts - Individual organisations or areas may choose to establish their own action plans including arrangements for an annual review and annual work programme, including the adoption and implementation of standard Codes of Practice.	
Bringing together existing Action Plans - As an appendix to the Kent Partners Compact	

Please rate order of preference (High, Medium or Low)

Option	Priority Rating		
	High	Medium	Low
Annual Review - Taken forward by the Kent Partners Compact Task Group			
Compact Champion - All partners to nominate a Compact champion to raise awareness of, and oversee implementation of the Compact, within their organisation. This could be a councillor to lead on VCS/Compact issues, or a officer of the board/management committee.			

If you would like a Compact Champion, who should it be? Should it be a representative from the VCS or Public Sector, or both?

Compact Compliance & Resolution (1)

Compact Compliance

Compact Compliance is about partners working together to make commitments, calling partners to account and resolving differences.

Importantly, Compacts are about partners working together for mutual benefit, however if issues arise they can be resolved through the following processes:

- **Compact Advocacy Programme** - run by the NCVO this is a scheme that provides practical support and wider campaigning to the sector in cases where the government has breached the Compact
- **CEDR Compact Mediation Scheme** - applies to disputes relating to the Compact - its scope includes central Government departments, their executive agencies, Government Offices for the Regions and all VCS organisations
- **Local & Health Ombudsman** - investigate complaints about councils and certain other bodies about issues including planning, housing, education and social services
- **Public Law Project** - an independent, national legal charity that aims to improve access to public law remedies, especially when there are overlaps between the Compact and public law principles
- **Commissioner for the Compact**
- **Complaints procedures and local dispute procedures for local Compacts**

Conflict Resolution

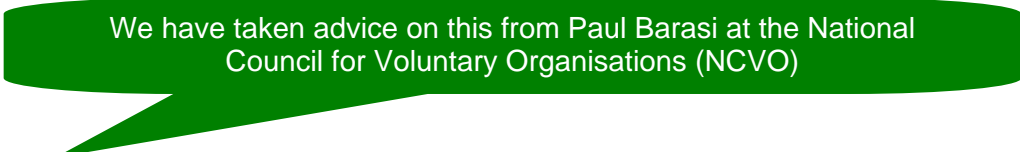
Although the Compact is about working better together, we should expect disagreements or disputes from time to time as part of an ongoing learning experience. It would be surprising if disputes did not happen from time to time if a person from one side believes a person in the other sector has failed to abide by the principles of the agreed Compact. The first action is always to bring it to the other party's attention.

Challenging in this way, on the basis on the Compact, is one of the surest methods of bringing the Compact to life, and using it appropriately. On occasion, however, the other party will not feel they are acting contrary to the Compact, or will continue to act against it: disputes will occur.

Resolving Disputes

Resolving disputes is best done at the most informal level possible - conciliation is better than arbitration. For the Compact to be effective, there needs to be a system for hearing and arbitrating on these disputes, otherwise the perception will grow that the Compact is "not worth the paper it is written on". Sometimes the word "mediation" is also used to describe this situation. It isn't about winning and losing but sorting issues out, maintaining relationships and learning.

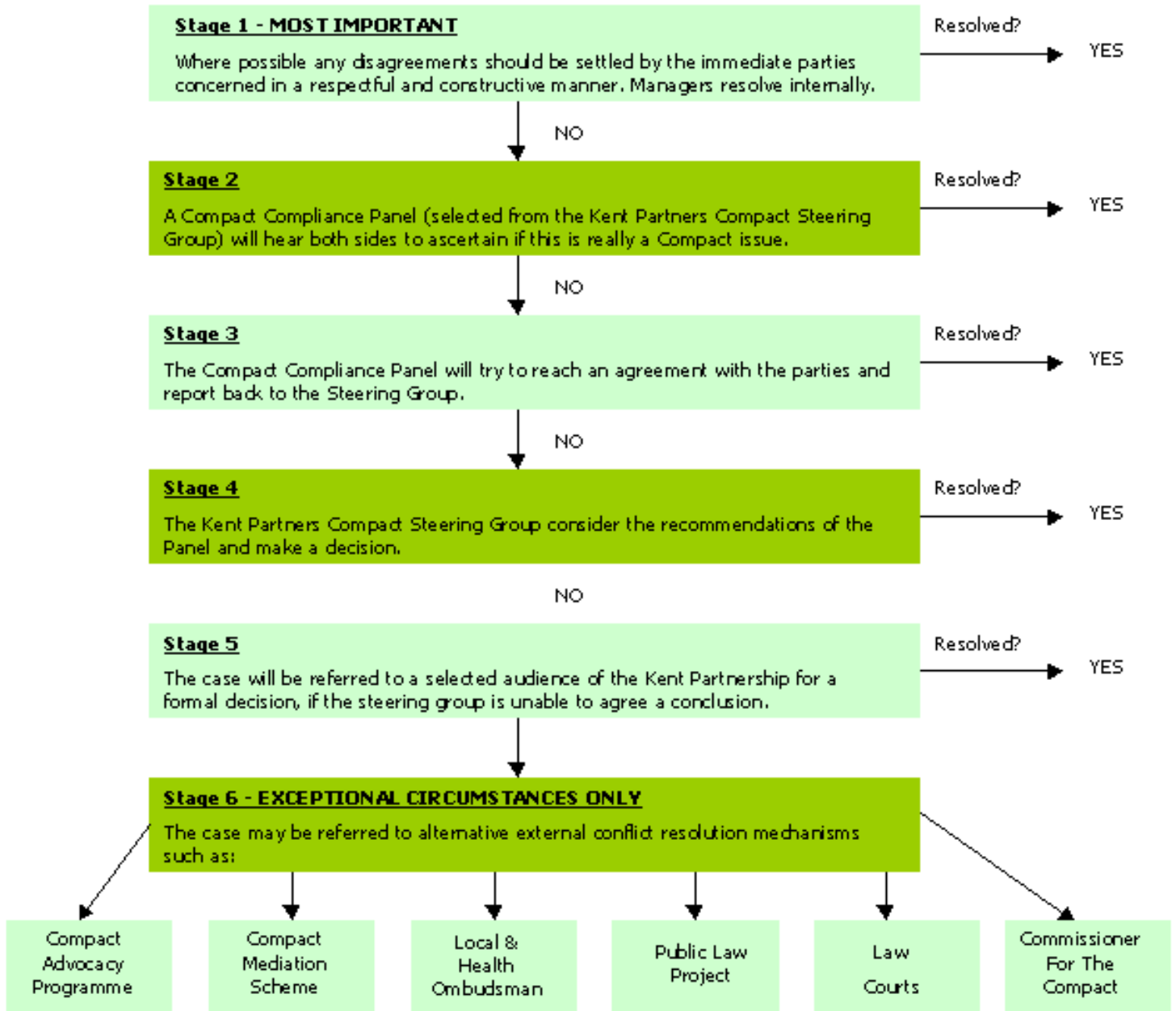
Compacts give partners enforceable rights - parties to an agreement can't decide to opt out of the law. For example public law will recognise the right to be consulted before a funder takes a final decision to change funding arrangements. If the Compact sets a period for doing so then that timescale can be expected to be upheld by the courts.



We have taken advice on this from Paul Barasi at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)

Compact Compliance & Resolution (2)

The proposed Kent Partners Compact system for ensuring compliance



We welcome your thoughts on the Compact compliance system

Monitoring & Review

To ensure the Kent Partners Compact remains a relevant and meaningful "living" document will require us all to be creative, take risks, trust each other and change the way we work. It is essential that the document is regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure it is taken forward effectively.

Who will have responsibility for regular progress reports and reviews?

Please rate 1-5 in order of preference (1 = most preferred option)

Option	Rating (1-5)
The Kent Partners Compact Task Group (who have created this document)	
The Kent Partners Compact Steering Group (wider group of stakeholders interested in this concept)	
Compacts in Kent Group (custodian of best practice, information dissemination and challenge/change)	
Existing Compact Steering Groups	
Other, please state	

How could progress be monitored and reviewed?

Please rate 1-5 in order of preference (1 = most preferred option)

Option	Rating (1-5)
Regular Evaluation e.g. questionnaire, feedback forms	
Set SMART performance indicators that we could report against	
Annual Audit	
Log of Compact Successes	
Log of Disputes Resolved	
Regular Updates to the Kent Partnership	
Regular Updates to Local Compact Steering Groups	
A Kent Partners Compact Officer (and admin support) funded by the Public Sector and with a small working budget for events, publications etc	
Review of Existing Compacts and Codes of Practice	
Other, please state	

Glossary

Capacitybuilders - a national agency with responsibility initially to manage the £70 million ChangeUp programme until March 2008

ChangeUp - a programme of capacity building for the infrastructure of the VCS, developed in partnership with the sector. The aim is to catalyse the modernisation of infrastructure provision in order to improve its sustainability, quality and reach

Codes of Practice - help to achieve the principles and objectives agreed in the Compact document, and help it to become operational

Commission for the Compact - the independent organisation for the Compact, overseeing the relationship between government and the VCS

Compact - a written agreement, drawn up between the VCS and the government and/or other Public Sector organisations, setting out their conduct towards each other when working together in order to deliver shared benefits. It is a shared framework for partnership working.

Compact Advocacy Programme - a scheme that provides practical support and wider campaigning to the sector in cases where the government has breached the Compact

Compact Champion - a person who raises awareness of and oversees implementation of the Compact within their organisation

Compact Commissioner - the head of the Commission for Kent Compact (see above)

Compact Compliance - act of adhering to, and demonstrating adherence to the Compact way of working

Compacts in Kent Group - a group where representatives discuss recent developments and issues about all compacts, and share best practice.

Compact Mediation Scheme - handles disputes relating to the Compact - including central Government departments, their executive agencies, Government Offices for the Regions and all VCS organisations

Compact Plus - the new agreement proposed by the Government between the Public Sector and the VCS to try to address the problems identified in the original Compact

Conflict Resolution - process of attempting to resolve a dispute or a conflict

Destination 2014 - a strategic framework reflecting a new way forward for the ChangeUp programme

District/Local Compact - an agreement for mutual benefit between a district council, VCS and sometimes other public sector partners e.g. Primary Care Trusts (see Compact)

Full Cost Recovery -

Kent Agreement - see Local Area Agreement

Kent BME Network - a network to increase the effectiveness of BME (Black Minority Ethnic) community groups in relation to local, countywide and regional service provision.

Kent CAN - the Kent Community Action Network, which is a County Level Voluntary/Community Sector Infrastructure Organisation that ensures the VCS has a voice in Kent to benefit the people the sector works to help.

Kent Compact - an agreement for mutual benefit between Kent County Council and the VCS in Kent (see Compact)

Kent Compact Implementation Group - group composed of representatives from Kent County Council and Kent CAN who lead on the Kent Compact

Kent Consortium Delivery Board (KCDB) - the board responsible for delivery of the Kent Infrastructure Development Plan in Kent.

Kent Infrastructure Development Plan (KIDP) - the document aimed at delivering the Government's Change Up agenda in Kent, Kent CAN took over its delivery in April 2006 in partnership with the Kent Consortium Delivery Board

Kent Partnership - the countywide local strategic partnership

Kent Partners Compact Task Group - a small multi-agency group established to revise the Kent Partners Compact document and oversee the consultation process

Kent Partners Compact Wider Reference Group - a multi-agency wide reference group who are key stakeholders in the development of the Kent Partners Compact

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - a non-statutory partnership that brings together the views of the local private, voluntary and community sectors with the Sustainable Community Strategy in an area, to turn the vision of a sustainable community into a reality.

Local Area Agreement (LAA) - a three year 'contract' between a local area (represented by the local authority and other partners through the local strategic partnership) and central Government to deliver particular priorities as set out in its sustainable community strategy. Known in Kent as the "Kent Agreement 1 & 2".

Local Government Act - passed in 2000, the act introduced a new power for local authorities to promote the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of an area

Local & Health Ombudsman - investigate complaints about councils and certain other bodies about issues including planning, housing, education and social services

National Compact - an agreement for mutual benefit between central government departments and the VCS (see Compact)

National Council for Voluntary Organisation (NCVO) - the largest umbrella body for the VCS in England who seek to give voice and support to Voluntary and Community organisations

Partnership - an agreement between two or more independent bodies to work together collectively to achieve an objective

Partnership Working - partnership members share resources and responsibilities and agree to work together in a co-operative and mutually supportive fashion to achieve the shared goal

Performance Indicators - quantifiable measurement of progress towards delivery of an outcome

Public Law Project - an independent, national legal charity that aims to improve access to public law remedies, especially when there are overlaps between the Compact and public law principles

Public Sector - organisations that deal with the delivery of goods and services by and for the government, whether national, regional or local e.g. local authorities, police, health

Strengthening Partnerships: Next Steps for Compact - a paper published by the Home Office in 2005 to consult on the relationships between central government and the VCS

Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) - a statutory document produced by local authorities that sets out a long-term, sustainable vision in an area and sets the agenda for priorities in the Local Area Agreement.

Third Sector - see Voluntary & Community Sector

VCS - see Voluntary & Community Sector

Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) - Voluntary sector organisations are usually non-profit distributing, non-statutory, autonomous and may be charitable. Community sector organisations are active on a local or community level, usually small, modestly funded and largely dependent on voluntary, rather than paid, effort. They can be seen as distinct from the larger, professionally staffed agencies which are most visible in voluntary sector profiles.

VCS Infrastructure Organisation - Sarah W providing wording

Contacts

If you would like to comment on the consultation document or have any queries about the consultation process, please contact:

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For other Kent Partners Compact issues please contact your organisation or local area representative:

Kent County Council - Brian Clacy - brian.clacy@kent.gov.uk or 01622 691814

Kent Partnership - Colin Maclean - colin.maclean@kent.gov.uk or 01622 694109

Districts - Councils and VCS rep

PCTs

Kent Police

Kent Fire & Rescue

Kent CAN

VCS Infrastructure Organisations - CVS and Volunteer Cent

Would you like to be the contact for your organisation on Kent Partners Compact?

Do you have any suggestions for who might be a suitable contact?

Are you prepared to be a Kent Partners Compact Champion within your organisation?

