

The Northumberland Compact key principles

- A healthy voluntary & community sector is a vital part of a democratic society
- An equal partnership between the public sector and the voluntary & community sector leads to better services and better outcomes for the community
- Successful partnerships require strong, honest and open relationships
- The independence of the voluntary & community sector is essential and should always be respected & protected.
- The public sector can play a vital role as a part-funder of the voluntary & community sector

Finally, to sum up...

- It's a mutual fair play agreement
- It's more than a wish list - there are commitments and obligation on both sides
- It encourages working together to develop better understandings
- It will lead to better futures for us all

How find out more

go to:

www.northumberlandvcs.org.uk

or for national information:

www.thecompact.org.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND COMPACT

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THE NORTHUMBERLAND COMPACT explained...



Building relationships between
the voluntary & community sector and the
public sector in Northumberland

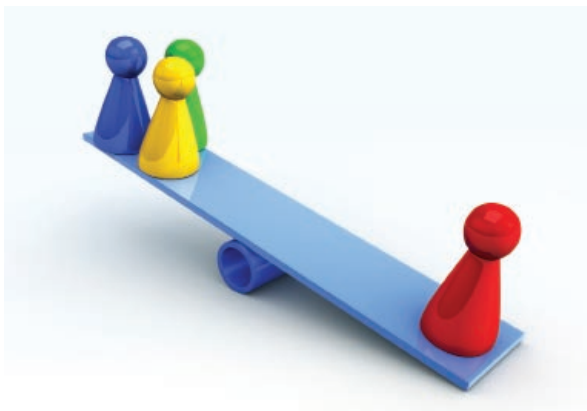
What is the Northumberland Compact?

The Northumberland Compact is a short and simple agreement between the public sector and the voluntary & community sector (VCS). It is a commitment from both sides to work in partnership for the benefit and support of local communities.

Both sectors agree to comply with a series of undertakings. Success depends on individual and organisational commitment to a healthy relationship as well as the extent to which the principles of the Compact are adopted by both sides.



Why do we need one?



Because the Northumberland Compact

- Provides a framework, or ground rules, to ensure fair play on both sides
- Promotes understanding of each other's scope and limitations
- Supports best practice and value
- Acknowledges that voluntary & community organisations/groups benefit from having local public bodies that are enabling and supportive
- Values the difference that the VCS makes and recognises the expertise within the sector

The public sector has a huge impact on the VCS. It gives, buys, taxes, regulates and invests in it. How well the two sectors relate to each other often determines how successful the VCS is in providing what communities want.

A bit of background

The first Compact, the National Compact, appeared in 1998.

The Northumberland Compact was launched in July 2005 with 24 initial signatories.

That number has now more than doubled. It is most unlikely that a public sector organisation in the county is not signed up to one or other of the compacts.

Associated Codes

The Compact provides the broad principles but its codes of good practice supply the detail.

In Northumberland, a Reference Group, made up of both public bodies and voluntary sector organisations, has agreed a Funding & Procurement Code and a Consultation Code.

In the event of there being a disagreement, both sides can seek remedy through the agreed Positive Dispute Resolution Procedure.

If there is no Northumberland code in place, then national codes can be used. These cover Community Groups, Volunteering and Black & Minority Ethnic organisations.