

Northumberland Compact

The Northumberland Compact is a short document which expresses a commitment to a healthy relationship between the public sector and the voluntary & community sector. It recognises the important contribution that both sectors make to communities in the county.

The Compact is the result of work carried out by the Compact Reference Group. Members are drawn from both public sector and voluntary & community sector organisations active in Northumberland. The VCS members are nominated by the Northumberland VCS Consortium.

Key Principles

- Voluntary action and community involvement are the glue that binds communities together
- An independent and diverse VCS is fundamental to the well-being of society
- Both sectors have distinct but complementary roles in the development and delivery of public policy and services
- Working in partnership maximises benefits to communities
- A joint commitment to operating with integrity, sensitivity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership
- Consultation should be timely, meaningful and responsive
- Voluntary & community organisations are entitled to act as advocates in challenging and seeking changes to public policy

Public Sector undertakes to...

- Consult with and involve the sector in the development of policies, programmes and procedures likely to affect the VCS
- Support the development and continuity of a vibrant VCS
- Develop and achieve effective working relationships with the VCS

The Voluntary & Community Sector undertakes to...

- Maintain high standards of good practice
- Contribute to influencing and shaping the development of public policies, programmes and procedures.
- Promote good practice in developing effective working relationships within the sector and with the public sector

The Northumberland Compact can be downloaded at:
www.northumberlandvcs.org.uk