

What is the Cornwall Compact?

Cornwall Compact, launched June 2005, is a non-legal agreement which provides the overall framework for improving the working relationship between the public sector and voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Cornwall.

Developed by people from both sectors, it applies to all statutory agencies operating in Cornwall, together with all voluntary organisations and community groups.

There is a long tradition of voluntary and community activity in Cornwall, together with excellent public services and joint working for the benefit of local communities. The Compact is a new approach to partnership working which will enable more open and constructive relationships relevant to the current opportunities in Cornwall.

Codes of Good Practice (June 2006)

Six Codes of Good Practice support the Compact by providing principles and undertakings relating to specific aspects of the working relationship.

- Policy Development
(*Participation & Consultation*)
- Funding & Procurement
 - Volunteering
 - Diversity, including Black and Minority Ethnic Groups
- Community Groups
- Training (*still under development*)



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Copies of the Cornwall Compact and Codes of Good Practice have been widely circulated across Cornwall and are available in local libraries. Electronic versions of the documents and this leaflet can be found on www.cornwallstrategicpartnership.gov.uk

If you would like this information in a different format (like audiotape, Braille or large print) suitable for someone with a sight impairment, or translated for someone who does not have English as their first language, please phone 01872 322000

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Cornwall Compact Codes of Good Practice

June 2006

Voluntary and Public Sector Agreement

The Codes of Good Practice

Volunteering

Popular in Cornwall, volunteering is an important expression of citizenship and can be a powerful force for change, both for those who volunteer and for the wider community. Volunteers offer support, expertise and innovation, adding value to any organisation.

With the emergence of the Local Area Agreement and other initiatives encouraging voluntary and community participation in local decision-making and service delivery, there is an even greater need to support volunteering.

This Code sets out how both sectors will work together to support and promote volunteering and voluntary action, including influencing behaviour to tackle barriers to volunteering. It is intended to be of use to anyone involved in volunteering, whether they are volunteers themselves, supporting volunteers or commissioning services provided by volunteers.

Community Groups

There are a large number of community groups in Cornwall, providing invaluable and diverse services to the local community and contributing to the Cornish economy.

The rural nature of Cornwall and limited funding can threaten their survival, and although Government and local initiatives emphasise the need to work with community groups, imbalances of power between them, the public sector, and the wider voluntary and community sector often discourages participation.

This Code flags up the issues important to community groups in Cornwall and seeks to challenge and remove the barriers to their involvement. It is intended for use by community group members or anyone wishing to engage with such groups.

Policy Development (Participation & Consultation)

Local policies are plans of action for tackling issues and achieving the hopes and aspirations of individuals and communities in Cornwall. Increasingly these are being developed and services planned and commissioned by partnerships of organisations from across different sectors, and there are strong future opportunities for joint working (eg via the Local Area Agreement). Voluntary and community sector (VCS) participation is essential in this process.

This Code is aimed at ensuring that policy development in Cornwall integrates the knowledge, expertise and experience of the VCS and public sector in order to maximise the benefit to local people and communities. It is intended to be of use to anyone planning, taking part in, or affected by policy development.

Adopting the codes

The public sector and VCS in Cornwall are expected to adopt these Codes as recommended good practice in their work. The Codes will inform the development and implementation of the Cornwall Compact and will be monitored and reviewed by Cornwall Strategic Partnership in June 2007.

Resolution of Disagreements

In exploring and learning new ways of working together it is inevitable that from time to time disagreements will arise. Where possible, such disagreements should be settled by the immediate parties involved. If an outcome satisfactory to both parties is not reached, the disagreement can be considered under the Cornwall Compact Resolution of Disagreements Procedure, involving a mediation panel convened by Cornwall Strategic Partnership. This procedure is for Compact issues only and does not alter the complaints procedures of individual organisations.

Funding and Procurement

Currently the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Cornwall is largely funded by grants from bodies such as the Big Lottery and through procurement of services by local public sector organisations.

Future funding opportunities (such as the Local Area Agreement, Cornwall Procurement Strategy and other initiatives) place an increasing emphasis on partnership bids and targeted income streams, and mean that the financial working relationship between the VCS and public sector needs clarification and a set of ground rules.

This Code is intended to be of use to anyone involved in activities which involve financial arrangements between the sectors, and considers how the VCS and public sector can maximise available funding, understand each other's funding and procurement policies and work together towards a fair and equitable working relationship as joint service providers.

Diversity, including Black & Minority Ethnic Groups

(Covering the six equality strands (SES) of age, disability, race, gender, sexual orientation, and religion and belief)

Cornwall is a large rural area consisting of isolated communities where lack of awareness of issues relating to the six equality strands further excludes the very people who need access to support from both public and voluntary and community sectors.

Its diverse population adds value and depth, resulting in a positive social, economic and cultural community. This Code values this difference by promoting equality and diversity across the six strands, and encouraging a proactive approach to supporting these communities and individuals, whilst taking account of current legislation in relation to equality.