

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COMPACT

A Partnership Agreement between Voluntary,
Community and Public Sector Bodies
in Dumfries & Galloway



community

planning

implementing a
shared vision with
communities in
Dumfries and Galloway



Introduction

A Compact is a set of shared values and principles that governs the relationship between the public and voluntary/community sectors, and sets a basis from which each sector will support the other to improve the quality of life of local people and communities.

The development of a Compact between public agencies in Dumfries & Galloway and the voluntary/community sector is intended to strengthen the contribution of that sector towards the community planning process and improved service delivery.

The Compact is designed to state clearly what each party can expect from the other – this can be summarised

a shared commitment to build mutual trust and confidence

as a shared commitment to build mutual trust and confidence and an appreciation of the roles and contributions of public and voluntary sector bodies towards the enhancement of Dumfries & Galloway.

For the purposes of this document, read “voluntary sector” to mean “voluntary and community sector”.



Vision

The Dumfries & Galloway Compact is an agreement that local public and voluntary sector bodies have developed on the principles of working together.

Our vision for the Compact is:

- to achieve a culture of mutual understanding, trust and confidence between public and voluntary sector partners across Dumfries & Galloway
- to find effective ways of working co-operatively towards the achievement of outcomes that will improve the quality of life of local people and communities.

The Compact acknowledges that not all voluntary organisations will seek partnership with public sector bodies.





Benefits of the Compact

The Compact will deliver benefits by:

- strengthening the relationship between community planning partners
- extending opportunities for the voluntary sector's members, supporters and users to contribute to the development and implementation of public policy
- making the policies and practice developed by public sector bodies more responsive to the potential and needs of the voluntary sector
- building confidence amongst public agencies in the ability of the voluntary sector to deliver effective services
- extending opportunities to work together to deliver mutual objectives
- enabling voluntary organisations to communicate the needs of their users and wider constituencies to public bodies more effectively
- extending the opportunity to mobilise the voluntary sector behind local initiatives when these coincide with the objectives of voluntary organisations
- increasing understanding of how the public and voluntary sectors work
- generating evidence and information on the value and impact of the work of public bodies and of the voluntary sector
- informing strategic thinking and longer-term planning.



The Compact and Community Planning

Community planning is a way of working that helps public agencies to work together with the community to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people's lives.

The Dumfries & Galloway Community Plan provides an over-arching framework to co-ordinate other initiatives and partnerships, and is underpinned by principles of sustainability; equality and value for money.

The new Community Plan for 2009-2020 will be focused on achieving improved outcomes for the Community and identify how we will work together to bring about:

"A Dumfries & Galloway in which people, making the most of the region's natural and cultural assets,

- are listened to, treated equally and respected*
- earn more, from a wider range of activities*
- live more active and healthy lives*
- are better equipped for a changing world*
- tread more lightly on the planet*
- feel better connected, secure and at home*

making it the natural place to live, work, learn and visit."

Local Rural Partnerships exist to facilitate Community Planning across the four areas and region-wide partnerships and work groups focus on different communities of interest.

To ensure their potential is realised, public and voluntary sector organisations must work hand in hand, building on each other's expertise and helping each other to achieve more for the people of Dumfries & Galloway. There are already many good examples in Dumfries & Galloway of close working between public and voluntary sector organisations. The voluntary sector is also involved in a wide range of other partnership bodies.

The Compact has been put together by representatives of public, voluntary and community bodies in Dumfries & Galloway. It will provide a platform for improved co-operation, understanding and respect.

The Compact is a result of consultation within voluntary, community and public sectors including three voluntary/community sector consultation events held between November 2007 and March 2008.

a platform for improved co-operation, understanding and respect



Definition of the Voluntary Sector

The Local Government Management Board has defined the voluntary sector as:

“Independent, voluntary or community groups that are not-for-profit organisations formed by people who have come together of their own free will to respond to issues regarding the quality of life for fellow citizens”.

Within Dumfries & Galloway it is estimated there are around 2,000 voluntary and community bodies. These operate in geographical communities and across areas of interest assisting people with particular needs.

The voluntary and community sector includes charities, community organisations, housing associations, campaigning organisations, social enterprises, community councils, faith based and religious organisations, sports, arts and

environmental groups. These groups and organisations are independent, defining their own aims and objectives and choosing the methods by which they work to achieve them. They are managed by a small group of people (the management committee/management board) who take responsibility for the running of the organisation. Sometimes the committee/board employs staff to enable the group to deliver its aims. Organisations usually have a constitution, which guides the activities and development of future work.

There is a need to further strengthen the voluntary sector and ensure that it makes an even greater contribution to partnership working and the joint delivery of services in our region.



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Shared Principles of D & G Compact

Partnership Working

- We believe that by working together and with others we will achieve more for the people and communities of Dumfries & Galloway.
- This partnership approach will be based on mutual trust and respect, our common vision and purpose and a culture of openness and transparency.
- The Compact provides a framework to secure organisational commitment for a partnership approach to the delivery of services for our local population.
- The participating organisations will be held accountable for the principles contained within the Compact.

Consultation

- We agree that clear, open and accessible consultation improves policy development, builds relationships and enhances the design and delivery of services and programmes, and time and resources will be allocated to this.

Equal Opportunities

- We are committed to promoting and striving for equality of opportunity for everyone.
- Our policies will promote best practice and equal rights in employment, involvement of volunteers, activities and service provision.

Recognition

- We believe that an independent and diverse voluntary sector is fundamental to the well-being of the people and communities of Dumfries & Galloway.
- We will recognise the important role and contribution of all voluntary sector groups, including those that do not receive statutory funding, and will ensure that there are opportunities for them to be included in the Compact.

Representation

- We will make a commitment to transparency in decision making.
- We believe that voluntary action and community involvement are vital components of a democratic society and promote social inclusion.

Resources

- We are committed to recognising the importance of stability, continuity and consistency in the planning and provision of services.
- We will actively promote the sharing of resources such as premises, IT and meeting rooms.
- We will work towards the principle of full cost recovery* to enable voluntary sector agencies to participate on a level playing field.

*See last page of Compact for definition of full cost recovery.

Joint Undertakings

- We will be open, honest and truthful in all our dealings with each other.
- We will foster the partnership between the public and voluntary sectors so that we engage genuinely, meaningfully and democratically with all people in society.
- We will keep each other informed of those matters that are important to meeting our common aims and objectives.
- We will work together to meet the present and future needs of those who live and work in Dumfries & Galloway.
- We will agree ways to measure and review the impact of our work towards our common objectives and then share this information, including the lessons learned, as widely as possible.
- We will work within the National Standards of Community Engagement** framework.

** See last page of Compact for link to National Standards of Community Engagement.

Commitments

Public Sector Commitments	Voluntary Sector Commitments
<p>Partnership Working</p> <p>We will ensure the voluntary sector is given the opportunity to participate in the development of policy and strategic planning in relation to their areas of interest and responsibility.</p> <p>We will ensure that the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are positively taken into account, including consultation with organisations representing those groups.</p> <p>We aim for openness and transparency in our dealings with voluntary organisations, recognising the need to use clear language and to avoid the use of jargon.</p> <p>We will work closely with the voluntary sector to enhance the delivery of our statutory obligations and other services where appropriate.</p> <p>We will promote an understanding of the value of voluntary sector activity to all public sector partners.</p>	<p>Partnership Working</p> <p>We will represent the views of our local members and service users (and our national bodies where appropriate) at planning, management and working groups.</p> <p>We aim for openness and transparency in our dealings with the public sector, recognising the need to use clear language and to avoid the use of jargon.</p> <p>We will work closely with the public sector to enhance the delivery of their statutory obligations and other services where appropriate.</p> <p>We will promote an understanding of the value of voluntary sector activity to all public sector bodies and stakeholders.</p>
<p>Consultation</p> <p>We will, wherever possible, allow reasonable time for consultation so that service users and other people who also benefit from services can be included.</p> <p>We will, wherever possible, manage consultation using the National Standards for Community Engagement to minimise any inconvenience to voluntary sector organisations.</p>	<p>Consultation</p> <p>We will gather the views of our local members and service users, resources allowing, about services and any issues that they have in meeting their needs, and pass these views on to service providers.</p> <p>We will support consultation by the public sector and, resources allowing, make sure that consultation reaches all the people that need to be included.</p> <p>We will involve our members, service users and other stakeholders in the development and management of our services.</p>
<p>Recognition</p> <p>We recognise that voluntary organisations are independent and have the right to manage their own affairs.</p> <p>We recognise and respect the independence of the voluntary sector and their lawful campaigning and challenging role, irrespective of any funding relationship that might exist.</p> <p>We recognise the need for full cost recovery in bids for service contracts.</p> <p>We aim to monitor and feed back on policy developments with implications for the voluntary sector.</p> <p>We will respond flexibly and sensitively towards each other and respect confidentiality.</p>	<p>Recognition</p> <p>We recognise that public sector bodies have statutory responsibilities and that they operate within constraints.</p> <p>We will respond flexibly and sensitively towards each other and respect confidentiality.</p>

Public Sector Commitments	Voluntary Sector Commitments
<p>Representation</p> <p>We will make sure that the voluntary sector is appropriately represented on public bodies, working groups, management and planning boards.</p>	<p>Representation</p> <p>The voluntary sector comprises numerous individual organisations each with their own aims and objectives that they wish to promote. As such no one body can speak for all, however voluntary organisations agree to work for the common good of their client group.</p>
<p>Resources</p> <p>We will be consistent in the way we manage funding arrangements, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance, as far as possible within our respective legal and financial constraints.</p> <p>We will provide non-financial support, which may include advice and opportunities for training to voluntary organisations.</p> <p>We will maintain high standards of governance, conduct, accountability and openness.</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>We will recognise that public resources are limited and public funding is provided on the basis of value for money and its contribution to policy priorities.</p> <p>We will maintain agreed monitoring, performance evaluation and reporting systems to ensure effectiveness in the use of resources.</p> <p>We will maintain high standards of governance, conduct, accountability and openness.</p> <p>We will meet our legal, reporting and accounting obligations to funders and to service users.</p>
<p>Other Obligations</p> <p>We will comply with recognised codes of practice when involving volunteers within our services.</p> <p>We will meet our legal, reporting and accounting obligations as funders, planners and service providers.</p>	<p>Other Obligations</p> <p>We will comply with recognised codes of practice when involving volunteers within our services.</p>

How Will We Make the Compact Work?

The Community Planning Joint Board (CPJB) will establish a Compact Implementation Group to develop an Action Plan to deliver our key Vision, Shared Principles and Commitments.

What will the Action Plan look like?

The Action Plan will be a live document, available to all community planning partners. It will link into current community planning monitoring frameworks and partnership working groups, and will feed into the development of the new Community Plan for 2009 onwards.

What kind of Actions will we take?

Here are some of the key actions to be taken to implement the Compact

Aim	Key Tasks	Action
Develop effective communication	Improve communication between all partners, at all levels	Use the Community Planning communication framework (in development), taking account of existing mechanisms; Have an annual voluntary sector conference with elected Members.
Strengthen partnership working	Clarify, improve & support methods for appropriate consultation & involvement	Refresh current Consultation & Involvement Guidelines; Develop structures which demonstrate voluntary sector representation in relation to the joint planning and delivery of services; Embed the National Standards for Community Engagement in consultation processes; Develop a procedure to resolve disputes.
Maximise use of resources, financial and non-financial	Resource availability & allocation	Promote existing joint working & identify further joint initiatives including shared & in kind resources e.g. accommodation; Identify staff development opportunities across partner organisations; Develop transparent funding framework through publicising application procedures, criteria & timescales; Develop a protocol on funding and procurement.
Monitoring	Agree process for Compact monitoring	Establish methods of evaluation and monitoring of the Compact.

Definition of Full Cost Recovery

Full cost recovery (FCR) is the principle that an organisation recovers the full costs (including overheads) associated with providing a service or outcome. FCR is important as it helps voluntary and social enterprise organisations ensure the sustainability of services they provide.

National Standards For Community Engagement

The Standards can be obtained at www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

This document has been informed by various Compacts already in existence.

Contacts

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