

Warwickshire Compact

Working together ~ better together

Summary

The purpose of the Warwickshire Compact is to improve working relations by setting out the principles and standards which public agencies and voluntary and community organisations can expect of each other when working in partnership for the benefit of local people.

Who is the Compact for?

The Compact is relevant to all the public agencies working in Warwickshire and to all the voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations which have, or are seeking to have, a working relationship with one or more of those agencies.

The Compact aims to increase the level of mutual understanding between the sectors and to recognise the importance of the contribution made by voluntary and community sector organisations and by their volunteers.

Implementation of the Compact's principles and good practice guidance will increase the effectiveness of partnership working between the sectors and lead to better strategic decision making by organisations in both sectors.

Codes of Good Practice

The Warwickshire Compact now includes five new codes of good practice:-

- ▶ Consultation and Policy Appraisal
- ▶ Funding and Procurement
- ▶ Community Groups
- ▶ Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Voluntary and Community Organisations
- ▶ Volunteering

These codes have been developed to provide more detailed information.

Signatory Organisations

Organisations in both sectors which sign up to the Compact are agreeing to implement its principles and good practice guidance and to take account of this when they are reviewing their strategies, policies and procedures which impact on their relationships with their partner organisations.

It is necessary for the responsible body of each organisation to formally adopt the Compact and to resolve to implement its principles and good practice guidance.

Public Sector Agencies are expected to:-

- ▶ Respect the independence of the voluntary and community sector (VCS), including its right within the law to campaign and to challenge policies.
- ▶ Work with voluntary and community organisations to understand the views of citizens and communities and create opportunities for them to influence policies
- ▶ Consult widely and early enough to make a difference and allow sufficient time to enable intelligent and considered responses to be made.
- ▶ Recognise the need of VCS organisations for full cost recovery for projects funded by grants and when seeking to deliver services through the VCS to use procurement without seeking information about management fees and overheads.
- ▶ Agree the terms of delivery with the provider before the contract or funding agreement is entered in to.
- ▶ Minimise bureaucracy associated with application, qualification, monitoring and reporting, and audit processes and introduce joined up monitoring and audit arrangements.
- ▶ Implement multi-year funding models and make payments promptly, offering payments in advance of expenditure to organisations wherever appropriate.
- ▶ Share risks fairly between funder and provider, ensuring they fall on those best able to bear them.
- ▶ Follow best practice in the management of volunteers.
- ▶ Work with the breadth of the voluntary and community sector, including small community organisations, social enterprises, BME organisations, faith and rural groups.

Voluntary & Community Organisations are expected to:-

- ▶ Be open and accountable and ensure that policy positions really reflect the views of stakeholders and constituents.
- ▶ Have a real understanding of cost bases & proper application of full cost recovery.
- ▶ Clearly set out outcomes which will be delivered when competing for contracts.
- ▶ Have robust monitoring, evaluation and financial management systems which provide accurate and timely information to funders and account for public funds.
- ▶ Implement good practice in the management, recruitment, training and support of volunteers.
- ▶ Embrace diversity and work to improve community cohesion and reduce inequalities.
- ▶ Recognise that each agency will prioritise its support for any project or service on how well a proposal will meet the agreed strategic objectives of that agency.

**For further information please contact:- Compact Administrator
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