

insight

in this issue

- Champions Conference p.3
- Compact Awards p.6
- Who's Who p.8
- Knowledge Bank p.9



Compact

working together better together

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter about the Compact. This newsletter is produced by the key organisations associated with the Compact:

- The Commission for the Compact
- Compact Voice
- Compact Advocacy
- The Office of the Third Sector
- The Local Government Association (LGA)

The Compact is all about better partnership working and creating better outcomes for individuals and local communities. Established in 1998, the Compact is an agreement between Government and the voluntary and community sector in England. It recognises shared values, principles and commitments and sets out guidelines for how both parties should work together.

Photography credits
Edward Moss Photography
The Lowry

Refreshed Compact makes its debut

A new chapter in partnership working between government and the third sector began on Wednesday 16 December 2009 with the publication of a refreshed national Compact.

The original Compact was agreed in November 1998 and was inspired by the Deakin Commission report on the future of the voluntary sector.

Following extensive debate and consultation during 2008/09, the refreshed Compact was published in December 2009. This agreement retains all the key points of the original but takes into account recent developments in law, policy and practice.

The Compact was agreed by representatives of government and the third sector with the Office of the Third Sector and Compact Voice confirming the policy and commitments content. It was signed by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon Gordon Brown MP, on behalf of government and Simon Blake, Chair of Compact Voice, on behalf of the third sector.

The Commission for the Compact managed the consultation and refresh process, making sure that the commitments by government and the third sector are able to be fully implemented in practice.

Third sector leaders have publicly welcomed the refreshed agreement and there has been public endorsement and a statement of support from the five chief executives of ACEVO, NAVCA, NCVO, Volunteering England and the Directory of Social Change.

The commitments in the Compact are now divided into three key areas covering:

- Involvement in policy development
- Allocating resources and commissioning
- Advancing equality.

The agreement is accompanied by a smaller publication entitled *An introduction to the Compact*. This contains general information about the Compact, explaining who it applies to, how to implement the Compact and resolve differences.

A programme of promotional work to raise awareness of the Compact will take place during 2010. In addition, work will commence on an accompanying series of Compact implementation guidance. This will be produced by the Commission for the Compact in collaboration with the Office of the Third Sector and Compact Voice.

To download a pdf of the publications, please visit: www.thecompact.org.uk
To order hard copies, please telephone: **0121 237 5905**

- National News -

New Director General

In December, Rolande Anderson was appointed as the new Director General for the Office of the Third Sector (OTS). She joins the OTS from the Office for National Statistics.

For more information, please visit:
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector

Compact Annual Meeting

The Compact Annual Meeting will take place in London on Monday 1 February 2009.

For more information, please telephone:
0121 237 5913

New Compact web page

Voice4Change England has launched a new web page, which is packed full of information about the Compact. The web page will include regular updates about its work with the BME third sector.

For more information, please visit:
www.voice4change-england.co.uk/thecompact.html

Out and about

This spring, the Commission for the Compact will be out and about exhibiting at the following conferences:

- Cllr 10 Conference in London (4 February 2010)
- NCVO Conference in London (23 February 2010)
- Bassac Conference in Manchester (4 March 2010)
- Navca's ILP Conference in Birmingham (11 March 2010)

For more information about events, please visit:
www.thecompact.org.uk/events



New guidance for local councils

In December, the Commission for the Compact published guidance for local authorities on managing budget revisions that can be due to the loss of expected income or pressure from increased demand for services.

"The current economic climate has created significant budgetary pressures for local authorities," said Richard Williams, Policy Adviser at the Commission. "We recognise that local authorities are facing many tough decisions and believe that national Compact principles often outlined in Local Compacts are now more important than ever.

"Principles outlined in this guidance provide a blueprint for local authorities to meet and manage spending priority decisions that involve third sector organisations and ensure that the decision making process minimises the impact on local communities."

The guidance note states that recognising and applying Compact principles helps local authorities to:

- Make robust decisions that minimise long term risk to service users
- Identify new approaches to services
- Minimise impact on Local Area Agreement targets
- Maintain partnership working with third sector organisations.

For further information, please contact:

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Email: richard.williams@thecompact.org.uk

To download a pdf of the guidance, please visit:
www.thecompact.org.uk

To order hard copies of this publication, please contact:
Tel: 0121 237 5907
or email: publications@thecompact.org.uk

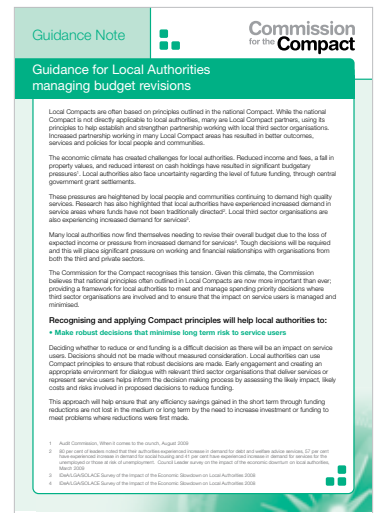
Sir Bert joins steering group

Sir Bert Massie CBE, Commissioner for the Compact, has been co-opted on to ACEVO's northern steering group.

Jenny Berry, Director of ACEVO North, said, "Sir Bert Massie's support for the third sector and involvement with our work will add enormous value. Having worked with Sir Bert before, I am really delighted that we can harness his fantastic energy to support third sector leaders in the north of England. The support of our ACEVO members, and especially those in the Steering Group, has been invaluable to our success in expanding ACEVO's services in the three north regions."

Speaking before his first meeting of the group in Manchester, Sir Bert added, "It's great to have the opportunity to contribute again to the work of ACEVO. The ACEVO North Steering Group is a fantastic forum for connecting with third sector leaders in the north of England."

For more information about Acevo, please visit:
www.acevo.org.uk



Compact Champions national conference

Thursday 22 April 2010
The Lowry, Manchester

A national one-day conference for Compact Champions is taking place in Manchester on Thursday 22 April 2010.

Compact Champions improve the performance of Local Compacts and help achieve better outcomes for individuals and communities.



This conference is aimed at existing Compact Champions working in third sector organisations, local authorities or public bodies. It will launch two Compact Champion training packs (one for the third sector and the other for the public sector) and will feature a number of workshop sessions.

Themes for the workshops include:

- Selling your Compact
- Helping people to use your Compact
- Engaging effectively
- Handling disputes.

Further information and booking forms about this conference will be available from the end of January 2010 on the Compact website. The conference will open for booking at the end of January 2010.

www.thecompact.org.uk

All of a twitter

The Compact (edited by the Commission for the Compact) and Compact Voice are now signed up to Twitter and are using the online service to send out alerts about news and information associated with the Compact.

To sign up and become a follower, please go to:

<http://twitter.com/TheCompact>
<http://twitter.com/compactvoice>



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If you have any news items for **insight** we'd love to hear from you.

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- Local News -

Gloucestershire

It's a busy time for the Gloucestershire Assembly. On Wednesday 3 March 2010, they are holding a conference in Gloucester in partnership with the Gloucestershire Criminal Justice Board. The event is entitled *Safer and stronger together: improving partnership working between the voluntary and community and public sectors*.

In addition, the Gloucestershire Assembly is running two market place events with the Children and Young People's Directorate in Gloucester on Tuesday 9 March 2010 and in Cheltenham on Wednesday 24 March 2010. The events are targeted at providers and commissioners serving at the two new Locality Hubs and will give voluntary and community sector groups the chance to exhibit and present information about their work.

For more information about the conference, please contact:
Jess Mace, Manager
Gloucestershire VCS Assembly Team
Tel: 01452 522600
Email: jessm@glosassembly.org.uk

For more information about the market place events, please contact:
Hannah Gorf
Email: hannahg@glosassembly.org.uk





What next for the Compact?

Key changes

There are a number of key changes reflected in the refreshed national Compact.

Involvement in policy development

This section focuses more on the wide ranging process of involving the third sector in policy development rather than just on consultation exercises. It also includes references to the Compact's consistency with other codes of practice and guidance in this area (for example, the Government Code of Practice on Consultation), as well as to the consulting organisations' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In addition, there are clearer commitments governing how people who represent and speak for the third sector should undertake this role.

Allocating resources

This section includes new commitments for government to:

- Extend the scope of the Compact to ensure that prime and sub-contractors and all other public and private bodies work within Compact principles when distributing money.
- Engage early with third sector organisations in the design of services and programmes.
- Allow enough time for consortia and partnership bids.
- Apply Compact commitments when distributing EU funding.
- Make payments within 10 working days of invoices being received.
- Consider how service users can be involved in monitoring and reporting.

Advancing equality

This section has an equality rather than a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) focus, applying across all equality strands, and has been expanded to include:

- A renewed emphasis on support for equality infrastructure organisations.
- A clear commitment to "fair and equal access to funding".
- Clarification that "single group funding" can promote cohesion.

The new structure in the Compact is based on shared principles encompassing respect, honesty, independence, diversity, equality, citizen empowerment and volunteering. In addition, there is an overall set of commitments and these are incorporated into three key areas covering 'involvement in policy development', 'allocating resources' and 'advancing equality'. In total, there are 95 commitments: 62 for government and 33 for the third sector.

The agreement reaffirms the Government's and the third sector's commitments to 12-week consultation and three-year funding. In addition, it recognises that volunteering is a defining characteristic of the third sector and a cross-cutting theme acknowledged throughout the shared principles and commitments.

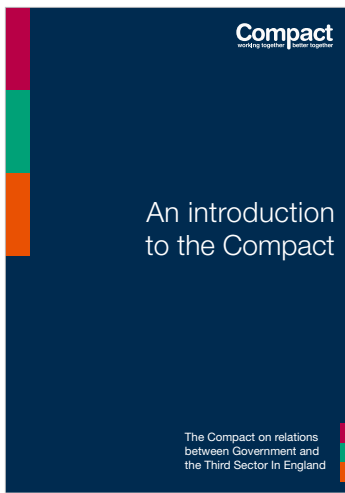
Now the refresh process and official consultation is over, this is only the start of ensuring the Compact is embedded into everyday working life explains Sir Bert Massie, Commissioner for the Compact.

"It was never going to be easy to refresh and update a document that is 10 years old and is highly valued by both national and local government and by the third sector. However, the original principles are as important today as they ever were and remain an integral part of the refreshed Compact.

"The process of refreshing the Compact has been challenging - the process of reconciling often diverse points of view is never easy - but it demonstrates to me the importance of this agreement because it is the result of so much animated and positive discussion.

"This Compact places a greater emphasis on government and public bodies to explain and justify the decisions they make. It reaffirms the independence of third sector organisations and their right to campaign and comment on government policy.

"But the question now for many people connected with Local Compacts is '*What next?*' Local Compacts need not be affected by the refreshed national Compact although some areas may wish to use it as a framework for a local refresh. We will be undertaking a programme of promotional work in the New Year to raise awareness of the refreshed Compact and, separate to this document, work will commence on an accompanying series of Compact implementation guidance. This will be produced by the Commission for the Compact in collaboration with Compact Voice and the Office of the Third Sector and other organisations as appropriate."



To download pdfs of *The Compact* and *An introduction to the Compact*, please visit:
www.thecompact.org.uk

Hard copies of the Compact may be ordered from the Commission for the Compact by telephoning
0121 237 5905

Foreword by the Prime Minister

“The relationship between Government and the third sector has been transformed since the Compact was launched in 1998. Partnerships between the third sector and government have flourished, and the third sector, in all its diversity, now plays a vital role in strengthening communities, promoting opportunity, and delivering innovative and personalised public services.

“We in government have played our part, doubling spending since 1997 to a total of £11 billion a year and setting up the Office of the Third Sector in recognition of the increasingly important role played by charities, community groups and social enterprises in our society and our economy. This combination of record investment and greater recognition has created an environment where third sector organisations have become not only an integral part of community life but a major partner to government in the delivery of public services, working with people at a local level in ways that are suited to their needs.

“This refreshed Compact sets out the core principles which the public sector and third sector share and which are the foundation of their activity. It is a clear statement of the Government’s continued commitment to working with the third sector, and will be a valuable tool in helping build strong and successful partnerships for years to come.”

The Rt. Hon Gordon Brown MP
(taken from the Prime Minister’s foreword in *The Compact*)

Response from the Minister

“More than ever, a strong relationship based on trust between the third and public sector is crucial for supporting communities and delivering strong public services. The refreshed Compact builds on the lessons of the last 10 years and sets out a clear agenda for future partnership.”

The Rt. Hon Angela Smith MP, Minister for the Third Sector

Response from the third sector

“The refreshed Compact is clearer, more effective and had the support of the majority of consultation responses. With so many different perspectives across sectors, there have been inevitable challenges getting to launch stage and some important issues still need addressing through implementation. Effective use of the Compact by both the third and public sectors will be vital in the coming period and success will depend on both commitment and resource. Refreshed Compact, renewed commitment, real opportunity - let’s grasp it.”

Simon Blake, Chair of Compact Voice

“We welcome the refreshed Compact document and believe it represents a clear improvement. We look forward to it ensuring better partnership working between the two sectors, allowing each to do what it does best. This is especially important over the next few years with the current economic difficulties. We hope this is the beginning of a new era when Compact principles will truly underpin the way in which the two sectors work better together.”

Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive of ACEVO
Kevin Curley, Chief Executive of NAVCA
Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of NCVO
Dr Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England
Debra Allcock Tyler, Chief Executive of the Directory of Social Change

The winners

Celebrating the Compact in action

"I would like to congratulate all the winners and finalists who took part in this year's Compact Awards. They represent Compact working at its best, illustrating the standard to which everyone should aspire.

"The Compact is both practical and symbolic. It plays a vital role and has made a huge contribution to developing partnership working, based on shared values, transparency and mutual respect.

"Our winners and finalists show that Compact principles improve the quality of partnership working, focusing on delivering the best services and providing maximum benefit, as well as promoting the building of long-term, sustainable relationships built on trust and commitment."

Sir Bert Massie
Commissioner for the Compact

On Tuesday 3 November 2009, the results of the Compact Awards 2009 were announced at a ceremony at The Dali Universe at County Hall in London.

The awards were presented by Sir Bert Massie, Commissioner for the Compact, Pat Samuel, Deputy Director of the Public Sector Partnerships Team at the Office of the Third Sector, and Simon Blake, Chair of Compact Voice.

For more information on the Compact Awards and to view a video of the evening's highlights, please visit:
www.compactawards.org.uk

Congratulations to all the winners and finalists.



Jaqui Ball, Arun District Council



Pat Samuel with Jaqui Ball



One Hull LSP



Sir Bert Massie with Graham Lewis and Jason Stamp



West Sussex Compact



Sir Bert Massie with Liz Lamport, Jaqui Ball, Rob Jones, Nigel Scott-Dickeson, Janice Spence and Safer Mohammed



Defra Third Sector Team



Sir Bert Massie with Conor Ritchie and Trewin Restone

Compact Awards 2009

LOCAL
COMPACT
OF THE YEAR
2009

The Compact Plus for
Solihull 2008-2013



Being presented with their award by Simon Blake are Mikaela Paterson and Faisal Hussain.

This Local Compact has made rapid progress in a short time. In 2008/09, Solihull published its Compact Plus and its launch event was attended by over 100 partner organisations from across the public, private and third sectors.

Promotion and awareness raising has led to improved engagement between the third sector and statutory partners, accompanied by improved trust and confidence between the partners.

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Nominations will open for the 2010 Compact Awards from Monday 17 May to Friday 20 August 2010.

**For more information, please visit the Compact Awards website at:
www.compactawards.org.uk**

The winners and finalists

Local Compact of the Year 2009

Winner - The Compact Plus for Solihull 2008-2013

Finalists in this category who were awarded **Compact Excellence Awards:**

- East Sussex Compact
- Merton Compact
- The Hackney Compact
- A Local Compact for Warrington
- Wolverhampton Compact

Entries in this category who were awarded **Highly Commended Certificates:**

- Redcar and Cleveland Compact
- North & North East Lincolnshire Joint Compact
- Sutton Compact

Compact Champion of the Year

Winner - Jaqui Ball (Arun District Council)

Finalists in this category who were awarded **Compact Excellence Awards:**

- Sam Axtell (Wolverhampton City Council)
- Soo Nevison (Voluntary Action Calderdale)
- Phil Spence (Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council)

The Commissioner's Award

(given in recognition of exceptional achievement)

Winner - One Hull LSP in recognition of its commitment to developing its Local Compact as a framework for good practice across all partner agencies in the private, public and voluntary and community sectors.

Compact Award for Innovation

Winner - West Sussex Compact

Finalist in this category who was awarded a **Compact Excellence Award:**

- Compact for Hull

Entry in this category who was awarded a **Highly Commended Certificate:**

- Bolsover Compact Development Group

Compact Award for Excellence at a National Level

Winner - Defra Third Sector Team

Who's who - The Compact Voice Board

Compact Voice is the independent body representing the third sector in taking forward the Compact. It is made up of an alliance of leading third sector organisations with national, regional and local reach, providing the voice of the sector on Compact issues. It addresses the concerns and priorities of the third sector to government, and campaigns to increase the use of the Compact while providing information, resources and support to the sector. Its board meets four times a year.



“

The board of Compact Voice is an exceptional combination of people with experience of developing and implementing the Compact nationally and locally, alongside those who represent the views and experiences of thousands of community and voluntary organisations using the Compact daily.

”

Simon Blake
Chair of Compact Voice

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For more information, please contact:

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8 All Saints Street
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Email: compact@compactvoice.org.uk
www.compactvoice.org.uk

Simon Blake, Chair of Compact Voice and Chief Executive of Brook, the leading voluntary sector provider of integrated sexual health services for young people across the UK.

Michael Adamson, Director of Individual Services at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID), a national charity working to change the world for the UK's 9 million deaf and hard of hearing people.

Liz Atkins, Director of Public Policy at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

Sylvia Brown, Chief Executive of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), the national umbrella body of the Rural Community Action Network.

Shamsher Chohan, Consultant and NLP trainer; one of the founding members of Voice4Change England.

Jeremy Crook OBE, Director of the Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG), a national charity that works to improve education, skills and employment outcomes for black and minority ethnic communities.

Seb Elsworth, Director of Strategy at the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO).

Chris Frost, Chief Executive of Merton Voluntary Service Council (representing NAVCA on the Compact Voice board).

Amanda Greenwood, Chief Executive of the Community Development Exchange (CDX), a membership network of individuals and organisations from across the UK who work, or have an interest, in community development.

Fazilet Hadi, Group Director Inclusive Society at the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), the UK's leading charity offering information, support and advice to over two million people with sight loss.

Arjumand Kazmi, Head of Policy at Voice4Change England, the national policy body dedicated to strengthening the BME third sector as a positive force for change.

Alan Strickland, Senior Policy and Information Manager at Volunteering England, the national volunteering development agency for England.

Hugh Thornberry, Strategic Director of Children's Services at Action for Children, the children's charity that supports and speaks out for the UK's most vulnerable children and young people.

Dr Jackie Worrall, Director of Policy and Public Affairs for Nacro, the crime reduction charity.

A new online resource produced by the Commission for the Compact is now up and running. Known as the Compact Knowledge Bank, this online library contains a range of research papers and documents associated with the Compact.

The documents are free to download and include:

- Examples of Local Compact agreements.
- A range of guidance and publications from organisations associated with the Compact such as the Commission for the Compact, Compact Voice and the Office of the Third Sector.
- Policy briefings and research.

“Finding out what information is available about the Compact is now going to be easier thanks to this new online resource,” said Sir Bert Massie, Commissioner for the Compact.

“Users will have free access to timely and accurate data, all in a specially designed, user-friendly system. An essential resource for anyone involved in partnership working between government and the third sector.”

Pete Lambert, Information and Database Officer at the Commission for the Compact, said, “By using a simple search function, users can find and download relevant information quickly and easily.

“Every file in the Compact Knowledge Bank has been fully categorised and this first phase of the Knowledge Bank includes up to 100 files. As the online resource grows, we will continue to add additional features.

“There’s great scope for the Compact Knowledge Bank to expand, both in terms of its content and the functions it can offer.

“Additional features are already in development and these will give the user the option of registering as ‘publisher’ to submit their own documents, to recommend and share links to other online documents, as well as the ability to discuss the files in the Knowledge Bank with their fellow users.

“We’re confident that the Compact Knowledge Bank will grow in to a vital resource by bringing all this useful information together in one place for the first time”

In addition to developing the new online facility, the Commission for the Compact is also creating a specialist library resource at its office in Birmingham.

Like the Knowledge Bank, the library will bring together works of relevance to the third sector and government working relationship including sections focused upon:

- Commissioning and contracts
- Law
- Equality and diversity
- Localism
- Volunteering

- Monitoring and research methods
- Specialist directories and reference works.

“The library is essentially a specialist information reference resource for anyone interested in the Compact and partnership working,” continued Pete.

“Although it is still in its early stages, the library is now starting to take shape. Access will be during office hours only and visitors will need to register in advance. As we cannot operate a full loaning facility, the library will be for reference purposes only but visitors will be welcome to make an appointment to work in the library here at our office in Birmingham.”

““

An essential resource for anyone involved in partnership working between government and the third sector.

””

To register for the Compact Knowledge Bank, please visit:
www.thecompact.org.uk/knowledgebank

or follow the links from the main menu at:
www.thecompact.org.uk



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For further information about the Compact Knowledge Bank or the library facility at the Commission for the Compact, please contact:

Pete Lambert, Information and Database Officer
Commission for the Compact
Tel: 0121 237 5908
Email:
pete.lambert@thecompact.org.uk

Commission for the Compact
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B1 2DT

The Compact and Procurement Law

A Guide to Frequently Asked Questions

Guidance is now available entitled *The Compact and Procurement Law, a guide to frequently asked questions*. It clarifies how the Compact and procurement law relate to each other, by answering some questions in areas where there is often confusion.

“Financial relationships between public sector and third sector organisations are governed by both procurement law and the principles of the Compact. People who commission services can use this guide to help them procure in a way that follows both sets of rules and principles,” explains Ruth Fennemore, Policy Adviser at the Commission for the Compact.

“Understandably public bodies sometimes interpret procurement law too rigidly, because the rules are very complex and they are afraid of the risk of getting it wrong. However, it’s important to be aware of the consequences of interpreting the rules so rigidly - it can lead to the design of restrictive procurement processes that make accessing funding very difficult for third sector organisations.”

“This guide shows how it is possible to follow procurement law and ensure processes are flexible enough to support third sector providers and demonstrates that Compact principles and procurement law are compatible,” continues Ruth.

Sir Bert Massie, Commissioner for the Compact adds, “In this complex area, misunderstandings do occur.

This practical guide acts as a useful resource to clarify areas of confusion around Compact principles and Procurement Law. It illustrates that the two sets of rules and guidelines can work in harmony.

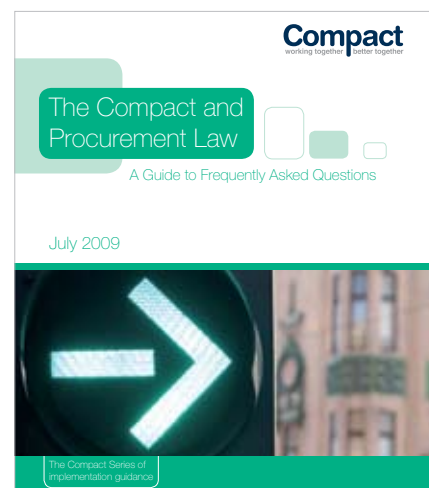
“I encourage everyone involved in financial relationships across both the public and third sectors to read and use this guide. This in turn will lead to improved partnership working and better outcomes for local communities.”

The guidance includes questions about:

- Procurement law in general
- Grants and contracts
- Service design
- Putting contracts out to tender
- Assessing bids
- Negotiating terms of delivery.

The guide was produced after the Compact Advocacy Programme received many enquiries from third sector organisations confused about the application of EU procurement rules and the Compact.

“We have had cases where public commissioners claim EU procurement rules preclude Compact compliance. This guide shows that this is simply



wrong. Government now needs to ensure that this message gets to all public commissioners to stop this myth once and for all,” says Oliver Reichardt, Head of the Compact Team at NCVO.

Although primarily aimed at commissioners, the guide is equally useful for third sector organisations who are involved in financial relationships with the public sector.

It complements the Compact Commissioning Guidance, published in February 2009, and it is recommended that the two publications be read together. It also contains a list of useful websites and publications for further reading and guidance.



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For further information, please contact:

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To download a pdf of the guidance, please visit:
www.thecompact.org.uk

To order hard copies of this publication, please contact:
Tel: 0121 237 5907
or email: publications@thecompact.org.uk

'Vurgs' interim report

An interim report from a research study focusing on volunteers from under-represented groups, such as disabled people, single parents, refugees and asylum seekers, is now available.

Entitled *The Costs, Barriers and Benefits of Involving Volunteers from Under-represented Groups*, the report explains the steps taken during the first phase of the study. This includes a literature review, an online survey of public and third sector organisations in 10 local authority areas and interviews with 10 case study organisations.

Based on the data gathered, the report provides initial analysis, observations and recommendations regarding the costs, barriers and benefits of engaging volunteers from under-represented groups.

The research has been funded by the Commission for the Compact who commissioned CSV Consulting, working in collaboration with the Applied Policy and Practice Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University, to undertake the research on its behalf.

For further information, please contact:

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Promoting the benefits

The Commission for the Compact has appointed Grant Thornton UK LLP, a leading financial and business adviser, to undertake research and develop a business case for developing local partnership working arrangements.

Targeted at local authorities, the research will identify the economic and social advantages of applying Compact principles in their relationships with third sector organisations. It will focus on a number of local authorities and identify advantages from a cross-section of 20 national indicators. Part of the research will involve the development of an electronic tool kit and this will allow individual local authorities to calculate the benefit of applying Compact principles themselves. Both the report and tool kit will be launched in spring 2010.

For further information, please contact:

Richard Williams, Policy Adviser
Commission for the Compact
Tel: 0121 237 5914
Email: richard.williams@thecomcompact.org.uk

European structural funding

Accessing European funding can be a challenge for many third sector organisations and research produced by the Commission for the Compact has found that, in a small number of cases, European regulations can cause difficulties in implementing Compact principles.

Entitled *Compact Application and the Administration of European Structural Funding*, this research looks specifically at cases where there have been issues in Compact implementation. This includes barriers to access, inflexible application processes and tight timetables and deadlines.

"We want to use the evidence in this research to push for better practice so that more and more third sector organisations have a positive experience accessing European funding," explained Sir Bert Massie, Commissioner for the Compact.

"However, although a minority of the third sector organisations we spoke to in the course of the research felt that European funding was high risk for their organisations, most said that the funding was appropriate for them and that they would continue to submit applications where possible."

Sandra Turner, Executive Director of the Third Sector European Network, believes that this report is an important first step in identifying some of the issues that are preventing third sector organisations from fully participating in European Structural Funding programmes.

"Importantly, it confirms that a lot of these issues could be avoided by the English authorities managing the funds making a more concerted effort to apply the principles of the Compact. We fully support for the Commission for the Compact's aspiration in using this evidence to push for better practice."

To download a copy of the research report, please visit:
www.thecomcompact.org.uk

To order a hard copy of the report, please telephone:
0121 237 5905

For further information, please contact:

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For more information on the latest policy news and developments associated with the Compact, please sign up to e-PolicyWatch

Visit: www.thecomcompact.org.uk/maillinglist or email: website@thecomcompact.org.uk

Useful publications

Electronic pdfs or hard copies of Compact publications and research are available free of charge from the Commission for the Compact.

To download pdfs, please visit:

www.thecompact.org.uk/publications

To order hard copies, please contact:

Email: info@thecompact.org.uk

Telephone: 0121 237 5905

Core publications

The Compact (December 2009)

Refreshed version of the national Compact agreement between government and the third sector.

An introduction to the Compact (December 2009)

Accompanying publication that contains general information about the Compact, explaining who it applies to, how to implement the Compact and resolve differences.

Joint Compact action plan 2009-10

Annual action plan that contains the agreed steps that will be taken during the year by government and the third sector in the implementation of the Compact and the Commission for the Compact in the oversight of the operation of the Compact.

Commission for the Compact: annual report and accounts 2008-09

Insight Compact newsletter

The quarterly newsletter for the Compact includes all the latest news and views on the Compact.

Guidance

Guidance for local authorities managing budget revisions (December 2009)

Guidance note produced for local authorities on managing budget revisions that can be due to the loss of expected income or pressure from increased demand for services.

The Compact and Procurement Law (July 2009)

This guide clarifies how the Compact and Procurement Law relate to each other, through answering questions about common areas of confusion and concern.

Independence Matters (June 2009)

The guidance aims to increase understanding in both the public and third sectors about the importance and benefits of independence and how independence can be threatened.

Commissioning Guidance (February 2009)

Aimed at commissioners in national and local public sector bodies, the guidance identifies relevant Compact principles and demonstrates where and how they can be applied to commissioning.



Research

Compact application and the administration of European structural funding (January 2010)

This research looks at cases where there have been issues in Compact implementation and the administration of EU Structural Funding.

The costs, barriers and benefits of involving volunteers from under-represented groups (September 2009)

This interim report focuses upon the costs, barriers and benefits of involving people from under-represented groups in volunteering.

They are the Champions: the role and impact of Local Compact Champions (July 2009)

This report explores the role and impact of Compact Champions for Local Compacts and acts as practical guide to help local authorities, primary care trusts and third sector organisations.

Mapping third sector quality standards and the Compact (June 2009)

This research looks at eight quality standards and accesses how they relate to the Compact.

Dancing to our own tune - the Compact: strengthening voluntary sector independence (November 2008)

Produced by Compact Voice, this is an analysis of national third sector organisations' experience of the Compact and independence.

Positive engagement, future practice: learning for end of life care - a study into the funding of palliative care (October 2008)

A study into the funding of palliative care examining how well the Compact has been implemented in existing relationships between hospices and Primary Care Trusts. The report was produced in partnership with Help the Hospices.

What makes a successful Local Compact? (September 2008)

This report highlights practical approaches used by a number of Local Compacts to increase Compact implementation and effective partnership working.

The state of independence (September 2008)

This research focuses on a sample of eight central government departments assessing their understanding of and commitment to the Compact, particularly on the issue of the third sector's independence and right to campaign. *(Available in pdf format only.)*