

Employer Supported Volunteering

An Employer Supported Volunteering Project was piloted by the Volunteer Centre Winchester in 2005. This project aimed to enable employees to participate in voluntary work at a time to suit them, and with the full support of their employers. The Volunteer Centre is continuing to work with the City Council on promoting volunteering by Council staff.

What happens when things go wrong?

In the event of a disagreement in which the 'compact way of working' is at issue, it is important for all partners to have access to a process to deal with disagreements. Local arrangements will be set in place to discuss disagreements. If the disagreement cannot be resolved at this level, an organisation may request that the matter is considered by Compact Champions from a neighbouring district.

What groups are already involved?

All the key public authorities have signed up to the One Compact. The Voluntary and Community Sector was actively involved in the development of the One Compact, and continues to be involved through membership of the One Compact Implementation Group.

Can my group get involved?

The One Compact exists for groups that provide a community benefit and that want to ensure that the contribution of their volunteers is fully appreciated by the public authorities and other groups. Your group doesn't have to be a registered charity to benefit from, or to contribute to, the One Compact.

Compact
working together better together

One Compact

How to find out more

Websites:

www3.hants.gov.uk/compact

www.waca.org.uk

www.winchester.gov.uk

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A larger print version of this leaflet is available on request.

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winchester area community action
at the heart of voluntary service



Winchester
City Council

Compact
working together better together

A Guide to the
One Compact for
Hampshire
in Winchester District

One Compact for Hampshire

What is it?

The One Compact for Hampshire is a common set of principles to guide the relationship between the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Public Sector in Hampshire.

These principles are strengthened and supported by Codes of Good Practice covering:

- ◆ Funding
- ◆ Consultation
- ◆ Volunteering

The One Compact, in essence, is an expression of the desire of the two sectors to work together, to be better together, and to get it right together.

How did it come about?

The Compact on relations between the Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector was published in 1998. This provided a framework for all local authorities to develop their own Compacts with the Voluntary and Community Sector in their areas.

So why is there only One Compact?

Discussions between the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Public Sector throughout Hampshire revealed strong support for a single Compact that would cover all of Hampshire. It was felt that a single Compact would bring the following benefits:

- ◆ Fewer Compacts to sign up to; less confusion, less duplication
- ◆ Making life simpler for voluntary and community organisations working across council boundaries, or countywide
- ◆ A shared understanding across all statutory partners of the role and contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector
- ◆ Shared resources

Who's paying for it?

Costs of setting up and administering the Compact are paid for by public sector signatories to the Compact document. Additionally, many individuals from the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Public Sector are contributing their time.

How will we know if it's working?

Measuring improvements in relations can be difficult. General indicators may be earlier consultation on important community decisions, and improved understanding of, and access to, funding.

A practical approach

In the Winchester district there has been a practical approach to a Compact way of working between the two sectors, with the aim of achieving clear and measurable improvements in relationships. Successes to date are:

Funding

A voluntary sector representative, from a neighbouring local authority, now fully participates in the City Council's Revenue Grant Assessment process to ensure that it is undertaken in accordance with the principles of One Compact.

Procurement

Winchester City Council is in the process of reviewing its Procurement Strategy, which will have an associated Code of Practice that sets out how procurement will be carried out in future across all areas of the City Council's services. The Code of Practice will be developed in consultation with voluntary sector representatives.

Shared training

Following discussions between Winchester City Council and Winchester Area Community Action, agreement has been reached that spaces on training courses that are not taken up by employees of the host organisation can be made available at cost to employees from the other partner organisations.

Commitment to the Compact principles

Winchester City Council has a firm commitment to the principles of the Compact and recognises that it is vital that officers and members are made aware of the Compact and how it affects them. It is intended to raise awareness in a number of ways.

An innovative example is the involvement of the Chief Executive of Winchester Area Community Action in induction training for new City Council employees. This takes the form of a presentation on the work of the voluntary sector, and how it supports the City Council's objectives.