

PRESTON COMMUNITY NETWORK

COMPACT EVENT-TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 2007

What has the Compact ever done for us?

A participatory event for the VCF and public sectors as part
of National Compact week 2007



INTRODUCTION:

Preston's Community Compact

The Compact plays an important role in setting out the principles and guidelines that act as a framework for good relations between the Third Sector and Preston Strategic Partnership. It aims to improve working relationships, establish best practice in partnership working and seeks to ensure the structural and economic development of organisations and groups within the Third Sector. It also provides a framework for the development of strategic and operational plans and policies. It must be recognised that the Third Sector has a range of fora, each of which has its own membership and the compact is not prescriptive about any individual section or relationships between those sections and the public sector.

The Public Sector Partners via the Preston Strategic Partnership adopted a compact with the voluntary and community sectors (third sector) in October 2003. The latest version of the Compact is the product of a comprehensive evaluation facilitated by Preston Community Network which resulted in the Compact being amended and updated. The most notable addition to the Compact is section which deals with procurement issues and the implications that these have for relationships between public and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations.

WELCOME TO THE EVENT:

This event was organised by Preston Community Network as part of its ongoing work in developing the Compact and as part of National Compact week. National Compact week is aimed at providing an opportunity to showcase the Compact and raise awareness of best practice, new developments, and debate across the sector and all levels of government.



Rose Caine: Chair of Preston Community Network welcomes participants, speakers and guests to the event - what has the Compact ever done for us?



Peter Bargh, Assistant Director Communities: Preston City Council: re-capped on the development of the Compact so far.



Simon Simon Kenton Director: Co-production for Health (Central Lancashire PCT) gave a presentation about 'Developing the Compact for Central Lancashire PCT and a thriving third sector'



Fiona Cooper, Vice Chair of Compact Voice North West and Julie Walker, Principal Community Development Worker at Congleton Borough Council told us about how they had worked together to make their Compact effective and developed a successful working partnership.



Question and answer session

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Participants then went into to two workshops to discuss the three questions being asked all over the country as part of National Compact Week:

- *How is the Compact being used now?*
- *How could the Compact be used more effectively?*
- *What might the Compact look like for the next ten years?*

FEEDBACK FROM THE WORKSHOPS

How is the Compact being used now?

- It would be if worker was in place for it, would help partnership working.
- Co-ordinate work .
- Certain elements of it are being adhered to by default.
- LCC not adhering to it.
- Partnership happening but not necessarily because of Compact.
- Compact not kept "alive".
- Not enough knowledge/understanding of it.
- Make sure it is being referred to.
- Good practise to have a Compact.
- Not adding value.
- Does it make a difference to the community we serve?
- Duplication of other documents.
- Smaller groups have little knowledge of it.
- 6 people aware of Compact.
- 3 from the public sector have used Compact and 1 from the VCFS.

What is good about Compact?

- There is something to build on.
- Cross-sector dialogue, communication and collaboration.
- Framework already in existence.
- Principles for organisations to follow.
- Education increases inter-sector understanding of Compact.

What is not good about Compact?

- No resources.
- Just another document.
- Poor presentation.
- Not embedded properly.
- Does not feed down to street level.
- No evidence it is considered.
- No ownership by partners.



Workshop discussion - how can the Compact be used more effectively?

How Could the Compact be used more effectively?

- Public sector senior managers need to be made more aware of it.
- Document needs to be more inspiring.
- Awareness raising in public sector organisations.
- News newsletters and websites to get information across.
- Accountability if Compact is not used effectively.
- There are no penalties for misuse.
- Need someone to encourage use and show the relevance of it.
- So many other documents to look at - no focus on Compact.
- Not legislative requirement; does not get high up on agendas.
- Make it more user friendly/appropriate to all levels. More practical and real.
- Develop own website for Compact; independent and not part of someone else's. Separate identity.
- Someone to host the post of Compact.
- How to be Compact compliant for each group; sign up to action plan.
- Review the groups - reconvene the work
- Political support.
- Championing a review.
- Review/renew and upgrade it.
- Inductions.
- Common Understanding - joint training sessions.
- Incorporate Compact into PSP action plans - effectiveness.
- Development worker
- Build Relationships.
- Accountability - partnership meeting to highlight both good and bad practices.
- Less jargon.

- Monitoring.
- Lack of resources to engage.
- PSP actions to build in and create Compact profile.
- A review group - clear purpose - somewhere to take information and actions.
- Review the Compact contents - too dry.
- Identify themed problems via a forum.
- Identify who is held accountable for implementation.
- Ensure people are fit to sign up to it and apply it.
- Give it a mark of quality - something to aspire to.
- Have a Compact Champion.
- Educate the members i.e. PCC and LCC.
- Money flow = dependency relationship.
- More private/independent sector involvement i.e. social enterprises.
- Have a "Partnership Compact" - involvement of everyone in Preston.

What might the Compact look like for the next ten years?

- Be easy to read and practical.
- Compact Champions to be Audits?
- Make document more interesting - for grassroots work as well
- Action plan - Compact Review Board.
- Include Compact in inductions in the statutory sector.
- Process/structure not only a document; should be in our practises not just paper document.
- Could it be a quality mark or standard?
- Preston kite mark - group be Compact compliant.
- Audit against it to get quality mark for groups - need a worker.
- Will there be one in 10 years - politics will have changed by then.
- Benefits of Compact: increasing service for members of Compact. The opportunity to share resources and make use of them. Include VCFS organisations in public sector training.
- PCN to be supported on taking Compact lead.
- Wait until the "dust" settles over the PCT.
- Status of local government in Preston - in 'flux'.
- Making sure the principles agreed are embedded.
- Links between Preston and County Compact.
- Principles across different Compacts should be the same, although priorities may differ.
- Action plan based - S.M.A.R.T.
- Loose-leaf document and updatable.

How can Preston Community Network support Compact development?

- Events and training.
- PCN to prompt questions.

- Liaison and dialogue with other forums.
- Feed in and back.
- Comparisons.
- Evaluation/resources?
- Dispute resolution.
- Peer review of complaints.
- Clearer view of opportunities and resources that can be drawn on by other organisations.
- Use Preston Community Reps to support the refresh and then email consent to all.
- See if we can link the new document with other influences i.e. LAA

Are Compact Champions a good solution?

- Yes, if trained and supported.
- Ideally a development worker is the best solution.

What benefits would your organisation like to see?

- More procurement opportunities coming from Preston City Council.
- 3 year funding still being talked about despite already appearing in the Compact document.
- Where does UCLAN fit it? - It appears to be a city within a city.
- Codes of practise - how can we make better use of training opportunities.
- Collaborative working.

At the end of the workshop sessions, a plenary session was held so that both groups could report back on their discussions.

CONCLUSION

The Mayor of Preston, Cllr Christine Abram formally closed the event and spoke about the long history of the VCFS in delivering services to the local community and the importance of effective partnership working, particularly in the more deprived areas within the City.

She said she felt '[the Compact provides us with an excellent opportunity to further develop our effective partnership working - not only as a way of sorting out conflicts between local groups and public bodies, but as a way of opening up new opportunities, strengthening community engagement and sharing best practice - to the benefit of both the public sector and the VCS.](#)

Lunch was served and participants had the opportunity to network.



The Mayor of Preston, Cllr Christine Abram, closes the event.

Appendix 1 - participants

1. Christine Abram, Major of Preston
2. Peter Bargh, Assistant Director: Communities: Preston City Council
3. Simon Kenton, Co-production for Health: Central Lancashire PCT
4. Julie Walker, Community Development Worker: Congleton Borough Council
5. Fiona Cooper, Vice Chair: Compact Voice North West
6. Rose Caine, Chair of Preston Community Network
7. Mahmud Amirat, Gurarat Hindu Welfare Society & PCN Executive
8. Jodie Bailey, Preston Women's Refuge
9. Ali Barkley, INTAG
10. Bob Barnes, Trades Council
11. Derek Barton, Preston Young Homeless Project
12. Linda Chivers, Chief Executive: Age Concern Preston & South Ribble
13. Melanie Close, Manager: DISC
14. Philip Duncan, Spectrum
15. Anis Faruki, Manager: Preston Muslim Forum
16. Pam Fishwick, Central Lancashire PCT
17. Carol Green, Brabins School (Extended Schools Programme)
18. Rosie Green, Community Involvement Worker: One Voice Neighbourhood Management
19. Christine Hazelwood, Integrate Employment Services
20. Cllr Ken Hudson, Leader of Preston City Council
21. Terry King, Trades Council
22. Carol Kubicki, Central Lancashire PCT
23. Barbara McCombs, PNE Disabled Supporters' Club & PCN Executive
24. Colin Makinson, Contour Homes/Callon Kids
25. Angela Melling, Preston Carers UK
26. Bob Minto, Head of Community Involvement: Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust
27. Heather Oakley, Preston Women's Refuge
28. Nigel Parkinson, Preston Divisional Headquarters
29. Nisha Patel, Manager, PUKAR
30. John Pemberton, Trades Council
31. Sarah Roberts, Central Lancashire PCT
32. Joyce Sabour, Faith Forum
33. Greg Smith, Salvation Army
34. William Snape, Scope
35. Peter Sullivan, Preston Carers UK
36. Kath Talboys, Director: Drugline
37. Rod Taylor, Integrate
38. Mark Wardale, District Partnership Officer: Lancashire County Council

Preston Community Network wishes to thank all the participants and guest speakers from the public and voluntary, community and faith sectors for taking part in this event.

Appendix 2 - Programme for the event

What has the Compact ever done for us??
A Community Network event as part of National Compact week
6th November 2007
At St Johns Minster, Church Street, Preston.

- 930am Arrive, refreshments and registration
- 945am Rose Caine, Chair of Preston Community Network
Welcome and introduction to the event:
- 10.00am Peter Bargh: Assistant Director Communities: Preston City Council
Our local Compact -the story so far.....
- 1025am Simon Kenton Director: Co-production for health (Central Lancs PCT)
'Developing the Compact for Central Lancashire PCT and a thriving third sector'
- 1045am Fiona Cooper: Vice Chair of Compact Voice North West
Julie Walker: Principal Community Development Worker:
Congleton Borough Council:

How we made our local Compact effective in our area
- 1115am Julie Humphrey: Co-ordinator: Preston Community Network
The role of Compact Champions
- 1130am Workshops:
 - *How is the Compact being used now?*
 - *How could the Compact be used more effectively?*
 - *What might the Compact look like for the next ten years?*
- 1230pm Plenary:
Report back from workshops
- 1245pm Mayor of Preston
'The importance of the VCS in serving our local community'
- 1pm Lunch and networking



Networking

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