

The Compact – know your relationships



History of the Compact



- Recommendation of the Deakin Commission's Report 1996
- Change in Government 1997
- The Compact 1998
- 5 codes of practice since 1998
- 96% of councils have local Compacts

What is the Compact?



- Agreement between Government and Voluntary and Community Sector
- Ways of working
- Partnership working
- Mutual benefit to both sectors and to wider society

National Compact bodies

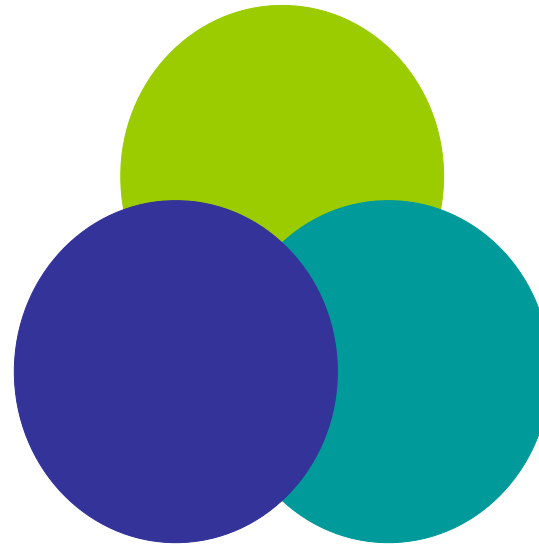


**Compact Commission
Ombudsman
Mediation**

**Statutory
Sector**

**Voluntary
Sector**

**Office of the
Third Sector (OTS)**



**Compact Voice
Compact Advocacy
Public Law Project**

Key Compact principles



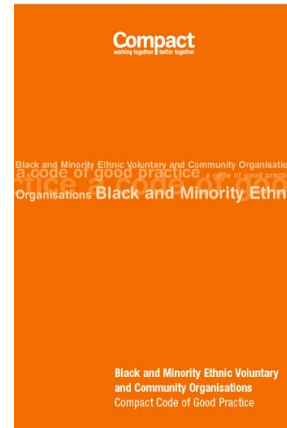
- Independence of the sector
- Equality of opportunity
- Partnership working
- Meaningful and timely consultation
- Sustainable, strategic, proportionate, consistent and transparent funding
- Respect and open dialogue



Codes of Good Practice



- Funding and Procurement
- Consultation and Policy Appraisal
- Volunteering
- Community Groups
- Black and Ethnic Minority Groups



Key Government Undertakings



Funding and Procurement code:

- Involving the sector in programme design
- Clear application processes and timescales
- Full cost recovery
- Risk management
- Advance payment
- Longer-term funding
- Proportionate monitoring and focus on outcomes
- Performance management
- 3-months' notice and reasons why when funding is terminated



Key Government Undertakings



Consultation and Policy Appraisal code:

- Consulting the sector on issues likely to affect it
- 12-week consultations in accessible formats
- Making clear what can be changed
- Giving clear feedback on responses received and why decisions were taken



Volunteering code:

- Consult on and minimise barriers to volunteering
- Improve understanding of volunteering

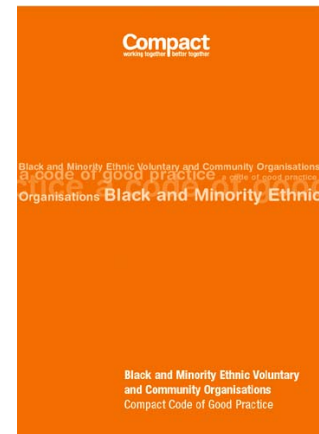


Key Government Undertakings



Black and Minority Ethnic Groups code:

- A joint review when funding is withdrawn
- A flexible and supportive approach during crisis
- Targeted consultation and funding to reflect the barriers these groups face



Community Groups code:

- Extra support for accessing funding, consultation and partnerships
- Support on volunteers, small grants, community assets and capacity building



Key Voluntary Sector Undertakings

- Maintain high standards of governance and conduct
- Respect confidentiality and be accountable to the law
- Involve and consult stakeholders where appropriate and communicate their views clearly and accurately
- Promote effective working relationships with Government bodies
- Develop quality standards and put in place policies and standards as appropriate to ensure best practice and equality.

The Compact's teeth

- Groups using it
- Compact Advocacy
- Public law and judicial review
- Ombudsman
- Mediation
- Compact in law debate...

Compact Advocacy Programme

- Run by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations
- Funded by The Big Lottery
- Compact Team / Compact Voice
- Local and national advocacy work

What we do



- 50-60 on-going local and national cases
- Providing advice and support
- Advocating and representing
- Campaigning
- Effecting long term change

Common cases



- Lack of FCR
- Payment in arrears
- Lack of notice
- Poor communication
- Disproportionate terms and conditions
- Lack of consultation
- Poor consultation practice
- Lack of understanding of BME sector

Case study



- **The Problem:** BME sexual health organisation was told in June that their funding had been terminated in April and without proper explanation about why.
- **The Compact Breach:** Funding code 7.6 and BME code 6.7
- **The Action:** CAP wrote to the PCT raising these concerns and requesting that it fund the appropriate 3-month notice period.
- **The Outcome:**
 - The PCT agreed to fund the full, Compact-compliant notice period from April to August;
 - Also gave further details on the assessment process used when funding was terminated;
 - Entered into dialogue with the organisation about how they could work together in future.

Case study



- **The Problem:** Capacitybuilders was requiring grant holders to calculate, report and potentially repay interest earned on their grants. This was a burdensome and administratively difficult task.
- **The Breach:** Funding code 6.6 Proportionate monitoring requirements and focus on outcomes, 6.7 Only ask for relevant information.
- **The Action:** CAP wrote to Capacitybuilders asking for this monitoring requirement to be removed.
- **The Outcome:** Capacitybuilders wrote back saying they had decided to revoke the clause and would communicate this to all grant holders.

Exercise



- How could you use the Compact in your work?
- What are the key issues in your relationships with public bodies?
- How could the Compact help improve these relationships?

The Compact Advocacy team

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