



July 2010 issue 10

Contents

Compact Green Flag Awards	Page 2
Wolverhampton Compact Champions' Pages	Page 3-7
Improving Support Magazine	Page 8
Compact Latest News	Page 9
Compact Case Studies	Page 10-11
Compact Voice - Government Cuts	Page 12-13
Sign up to The Compact E Bulletin	Page 14





Wolverhampton wins a green flag

Wolverhampton Compact has another reason to celebrate! Following on from our Excellence Award, Wolverhampton has been named as one of only 15 local compact areas to be awarded this new recognition for excellent partnership working.

Wolverhampton have been awarded a green flag for our Compact working. New findings were announced recently by Compact Voice, the voice for the sector in compact working. A map has been created to show the areas where good partnership working has benefitted communities.

Speaking about the map, Oliver Reichardt, Head of the Compact Team, says *"This map highlights how the Compact has helped transform many local areas for the better. There are difficult spending decisions being made across the country, and with more to come in the future, we are calling on all local areas to follow the example set by these top-performing partnerships, which will ensure that our communities can survive in the best possible shape."*

To read more go to: [Compact Voice](#)



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COMPACT VOICE AWARDS GREEN FLAGS FOR GOOD PRACTICE

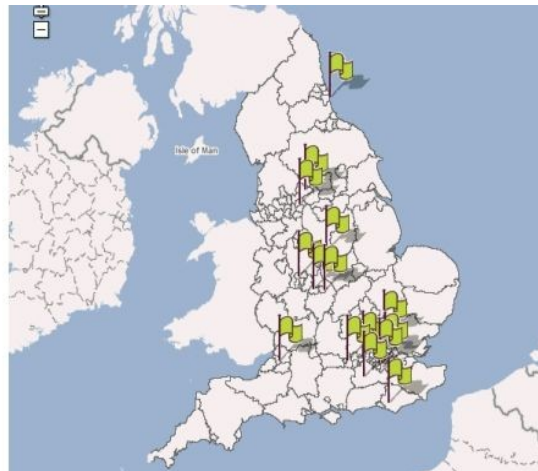
By Ann-Marie Corvin, Third Sector Online, 10 June 2010

Organisation publishes map highlighting areas where the Compact has been used successfully

[Compact Voice](#) has published a [map](#) highlighting 15 areas of the country where the Compact has provided benefits.

Successful areas have been awarded green flags by the organisation, which champions the agreement that sets out how public and voluntary organisations should behave towards one another.

Sunderland, Oldham, **Wolverhampton**, Solihull, Derby, Bristol and the London boroughs of Merton and Hackney are among the places highlighted as areas where the Compact has delivered benefits, such as initiatives to tackle poverty and encourage volunteering.



Wolverhampton Champions' Page

Statutory Compact Champions' Toolkit Update

Wolverhampton has been commissioned by the Commission for the Compact to write a toolkit for Statutory Sector Compact Champions. To help with the research Compact Champions were interviewed over the telephone by an independent researcher. The findings will feed into the toolkit which will be released as a national document to support Statutory Sector Compact Champions in their role. It will also be used as a guide to working with Wolverhampton Compact Champions.

A Champions' Event was held on 9th March 2010 for both new and existing champions. The main aim of the event was to :

- To inform new champions about the Wolverhampton and National Compact.
- To share ideas and offer support for Wolverhampton Compact Champions.
- To gather views to feed into the Compact Champions' Toolkit.

A number of Statutory Compact Champions have now been recruited within Wolverhampton City Council and their details and of those of existing WCC Champions are listed on the next page.





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Wolverhampton City Council Compact Champions

Jay Morgan	Office of the Chief Exec	mailto:jay.morgan@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Steve Boyes	Interim Chief Exec	mailto:steve.boyes@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Joanne Lancaster	Asst Chief Exec	mailto:joanne.lancaster@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Cllr Neville Patten	Conservative	mailto:neville.patten@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Cllr John Pask	Conservative	mailto:john.pask@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Cllr Roger Lawrence	Labour	mailto:roger.lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Cllr Elias Mattu	Labour	mailto:elias.mattu@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Cllr Michael Heap	Liberal	mailto:michael.heap@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Martha Cummings	Senior Voluntary & Community Sector Officer	mailto:martha.cummings@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Karen Cross	Head of Community Initiatives Regeneration & Environment	karen.cross@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Rob Willoughby	Children & Young Peoples' Services	Rob.Willoughby@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Sam Axtell	Consultant & Community Involvement Officer	Sam.Axtell@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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working together better together



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Wolverhampton Compact Champions Network Meeting 21st September 2010

The next Champions' Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21st September 2.00 to 4.00 at WVSC Meeting Room, 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN. It is an opportunity for Champions to get together to share ideas and offer support. If you would like to attend please contact Kath Pye 01902 773761 or email kpye@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk.



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WOLVERHAMPTON COMPACT NEEDS YOU!

To help Wolverhampton Compact to be even more well used and understood we need the valuable support of Compact Champions. Champions can feed into the overall direction and development of the Compact by raising awareness at events and meetings. Champions act as the voice of the Compact not only within their own organisations but also those that they come into contact with on a regular basis.

Support for Champions

- Compact Champions are invited to an annual event and will receive regular updates about, local, regional and national progress of the Compact.
- The Champion's Network meets on a quarterly basis to share ideas, information and experiences.
- Saffi Price, Partnership and Participation Co-ordinator based at Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and Martha Cummings, Senior Voluntary and Community Sector Officer, Community Initiatives Team, Wolverhampton City Council provide ongoing advice and support.

If you would like to sign up to become a Compact Champion please contact Kath Pye at WVSC, 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN Tel 01902 773761 email kpye@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk





Improving Support magazine

Improving Support Magazine brings together insight, practical resources and learning for people who are involved in supporting charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises and those who fund and commission their services.

It is published by Capacitybuilders and is available free of charge.

Each edition of the magazine is theme-specific so that you can use it as a reference resource on an ongoing basis to help inform your work.

Hot off the press

[The latest edition of Improving Support Magazine](#) focuses on the topic of Local Partnerships.

To deliver a vision of a Big Society, effective partnerships and creative collaboration between support providers, serviced commissioners and organisations working in local communities will be vitally important. Collaboration across sectors leads to more effective engagement with local policy and planning and delivers more joined-up services and can help secure more sustainable funding streams.

Improving Support Magazine looks at:

- opportunities for local community based organisations to deliver public services and shows how even small organisations can use partnerships to get a foothold in local delivery
- ways of promoting meaningful involvement in local decision making
- the benefits for service users when the public and third sectors work together.

There is an interesting article on page 18/19 featuring the Compact in Action and what it means locally. Please click on the highlighted link above for the latest edition



Compact Latest News



The Compact has an important part to play

14 Jun 2010

The Compact was described as an "important framework for the relationship between the state and the sector" by Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society, during Cabinet Office questions on Wednesday 9 June 2010.

"The Compact is an important framework for the relationship between the state and the sector at a very important time in its development. We want the sector to work more closely with the state and the Compact has an important part to play in making sure that that relationship works productively."

Coverage of questions in the House of Commons to Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude can be viewed at:

www.bbc.co.uk/tv/programmes/genres/factual/politics/schedules





Case studies illustrate Compact good practice

24 May 2010

A series of case studies showing the Compact partnership working agreement in use within public sector organisations has been published on the Compact website.

The case studies have been developed following the Commission for the Compact's work with a number of public sector organisations, from government departments and agencies to local public bodies, offering advice and practical support on using the Compact.

Case studies feature the Department of Children, Schools and Families (now known as the Department for Education) Rutland County Council and Dacorum Borough Council. Over the coming months, further case studies will be published.

The case studies provide ideas and models of good practice that public sector organisations, looking to use the Compact more effectively, can learn from. Alongside them, there are practical documents such as project plans, templates and presentations used by the organisations during their work to implement the Compact.

Ruth Fennemore, Policy Adviser at the Commission for the Compact, who is leading on this project, said:

"The case studies tell the story of practical things that different public sector organisations have done to improve their use of the Compact. The organisations we have worked with have welcomed the external advice and support. We hope that through sharing their case studies, other areas will gain valuable ideas for strengthening their own partnerships with the voluntary sector."

"Good partnership working can make a big contribution at a time of shrinking budgets to the ability of public bodies to continue providing high quality services and facilities for local people."

Sharon Collins, Partnership Liaison Officer at Dacorum Borough Council, said:

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"Working with the Commission for the Compact has helped us breathe new life into our Compact. Through this project we have been able to reignite and promote interest in the voluntary sector amongst staff and elected members. The Compact, and the value of the voluntary sector generally, has climbed back up the list of priorities and is now firmly placed in the Council's vision for the future."

To download the case studies and accompanying documents, please visit:
www.thecompact.org.uk/casestudies





Compact Voice Article-Sector Cuts and the Compact Government departments pledge commitment to the Compact during difficult financial times

The Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) have both announced new initiatives to promote their commitment to the Compact.

Working alongside Compact Voice, CLG and DH have responded to concerns that many local voluntary and community sector organisations will be facing cuts to their funding without regard to the principles of the Compact - the partnership agreement between government and civil society.

Recent announcements about cuts to local authority funding have affected many organisations, with changes made to how front-line services are supported locally. Alarming, Compact Voice has been made aware of many examples across the country where cuts have been announced without following the principles of the Compact.

Recognising the challenges ahead for many organisations, CLG have committed to working alongside Compact Voice, the Office for Civil Society, and the Local Government Association to support the sharing of good practice, encourage discussion, and support the continued application of the principles of the Compact during any changes to spending agreements. This will include supporting and promoting a new page on Compact Voice's website providing information about the importance of the Compact when making spending cuts (<http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/cuts>)

Compact Voice has also worked with the Department of Health in exploring new ways to promote changes to their grant application processes, which have been affected by the recent election.

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Sector Cuts and the Compact

Continued

Recognising that changes to application processes - not least in the context of wider spending cuts - might raise concerns in organisations who may have been considering applying, DH have indicated that they will continue to follow Compact principles when announcing new funding and grant opportunities to the Sector. They and Compact Voice have agreed to work together to ensure that any changes take account of the sector's concerns; and to advise and support organisations in the sector to ensure they understand any changes made.

Tom Elkins, Manager of Compact Voice said:

"That both the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health recognise the importance of the Compact at this difficult time is welcome. By following the Compact they will be able to ensure the right decisions are taken and minimise the negative impact of the cuts, and we would encourage other departments to follow their example."

Wolverhampton Compact would like to hear from any local group or organisation that has been affected by the recent government cuts. Please tell us of your experiences by emailing kpye@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk



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PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY COLLEAGUES WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE WOLVERHAMPTON COMPACT E-BULLETIN. COPIES CAN BE SENT OUT TO MEMBERS VIA EMAIL OR POST.

OR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANISATION TO **SIGN UP TO THE COMPACT OR NOMINATE A COMPACT CHAMPION**

Details should be sent to:

KATH PYE

COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

16 TEMPLE STREET

WOLVERHAMPTON

WV2 4AN

TEL: 01902 773761

EMAIL: kp@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk

*** Details should include: Name, Position, Organisation, Department, Address, Telephone Numbers, Email address and Fax Number.**

Thank you