



Your Guide

Surrey compact
builds relationships
between voluntary,
community and faith
sector and public
authorities in Surrey

Working together for Surrey

Why the Surrey Compact matters

A Compact is an agreement that builds relationships that change how partners behave, engage and work together at all levels.

The Surrey Compact is about promoting understanding and co-operation between planners and providers of local services in the statutory and voluntary sector. As such its principles need to inform working practice throughout these organisations.

The Surrey Compact is the foundation of good working relationships between the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) and other partners in the public sector, underpinning grant, contract and other partnership and collaborative working arrangements.

The Surrey Compact also ensures that the importance of the volunteering contribution to the local economy is recognised by all organisations in Surrey.

Voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) organisations will

- Have responsibility for responding to relevant and timely consultations
- Aim to provide a coordinated and where possible, collective voice for the sector through the Surrey VCFS Assembly
- Assume that in their dealings with statutory partners that they are equal partners.

Key Compact principles

- Voluntary action is an essential component of a democratic society
- In the development and delivery of public policy and services, the statutory sector and the VCFS have distinct but complementary roles
- There is added value in working in partnership towards common objectives. Meaningful consultation builds relationships, improves policy development and enhances design and delivery of services
- The statutory sector and the VCFS have different forms of accountability and are answerable to different stakeholders, but common to both is the need for integrity, objectivity and accountability, openness, honesty and leadership

- VCFS organisations are entitled to campaign within the law in order to advance their aims
 - The statutory sector plays a significant role, among other things, as a funder of some VCFS organisations.
- Nevertheless, funding should not be the dominant factor in the balance of relationships.

How we work

Challenge and accountability

The **Surrey Compact Implementation Group** acts as a forum where key issues can be discussed, problems can be shared and resolved and recommendations made for changes of approach. The group meets with the Surrey Compact Champions Group twice a year, which includes representatives from signatory organisations, to share best practice between organisations across the county.

The real teeth of the Compact lie in its **Codes of Practice** that set out in more detail how aspects of the relationship are to be conducted.

The Surrey Compact Implementation Group and Compact Champions promote the use of the Compact Codes in everyday work.

Compact Codes cover:

- Implementing responsible and **fair funding arrangements**
- Promoting **volunteering**
- Facilitating **communication, consultation and engagement**
- Implementing and **promoting equality and diversity**
- Working with **Community Groups**
- **Resolving disputes** positively

Funding, commissioning and procurement

The Surrey Compact has championed the role of the VCFS in public service delivery and aims to ensure that local groups can compete for sustainable service contracts on an equal basis. Practical support is available from the statutory sector to ensure effective VCFS participation where groups want to enter the competitive market or make a bid for grant aid.

Public sector bodies will

- Use Compact principles to maximise effectiveness in their working relationship with the VCFS
- Provide support by implementing best practice
- Enable wide and appropriate consultation about service provision and service development.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), National Indicator 7 (NI 7 - a Thriving Third Sector) and the Compact

The Audit Commission will measure how well public and third sector organisations are working together to achieve local outcomes and will assess the influence of the Compact in promoting good relations. Many of the Compact principles are key components in creating the 'environment for a thriving third sector' and therefore contribute to improvement against NI7. Performance in relation to NI7 will be measured in all areas as part of Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Get in touch

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Compact sponsors

- Surrey County Council
- Guildford Borough Council
- Mole Valley District Council
- Waverley Borough Council
- NHS Surrey
- Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Surrey Police

Details of all signatories can be found on the Surrey Compact website.

The Surrey Compact Implementation Group (SCIG)
The SCIG is made up of voluntary, community, faith sector and public sector representatives from across Surrey. Meetings are held bi-monthly and minutes can be accessed via the Surrey Compact Development Director.