

**‘Let’s do it smarter’**



## **Worcestershire Compact Summary**



# What is a Compact?

**According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a compact is an agreement or contract - BUT what does it mean in this context?**

**Worcestershire's Compact is an agreement between any statutory body and voluntary and community organisation that want to work together.**

## **What is a statutory body?**

A statutory body is any organisation that is required by law to offer a service, for example Worcestershire County Council or any of the six district councils in the county; Primary Care Trusts; West Mercia Police or Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

## **What is a voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisation?**

A VCS organisation can be anything from a formally constituted group that employs paid staff, to small informal groups that come together over a single issue. However, they usually share a common aim which is to provide assistance, whether through advice, information or services, to a local community.

**A good example of how the statutory sector might work with the voluntary and community sector to deliver a service is the Age Concern foot care scheme. This scheme is funded by South Worcestershire PCT who identified a need to provide foot care for older people suffering from arthritis or diabetes or who simply cannot bend down to reach their feet. Age Concern now provides a foot care service delivered by eight volunteers based in six clinics.**

## **Why do we need a Compact in Worcestershire?**

Worcestershire's Compact recognises the important role that the VCS plays in the way that services are delivered to local communities. In particular, they often provide services at a very local level, and are able to reach people and communities that other organisations don't reach.

The voluntary sector also has the ability to mobilise significant numbers of volunteers and plays an important role in speaking up for people who aren't able to speak up for themselves.

## **How will it change things?**

Worcestershire's Compact will provide a very clear framework for the way that statutory and VCS organisations get together to provide services and should mean that Worcestershire residents receive better services that are provided in a way that is right for them.

It will also ensure respect and equality between the different organisations.



## How is the Worcestershire Partnership involved?

The Worcestershire Partnership brings together local government, public services, the voluntary and community sector and business to improve life in Worcestershire. All member organisations of the Partnership are committed to adopting the Compact within their organisations.

The Compact will also contribute to the vision of the Worcestershire Partnership, which is to work towards a county with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment.

This Compact has been developed by the Engaging Worcestershire Steering Group, a task group of the Worcestershire Partnership, in consultation with both the statutory sector and VCS organisations.

## Principles of Worcestershire's Compact

- Working in partnership
- Appreciation for the diversity of VCS groups
- Mutual respect for partner organisations
- Recognition of the importance of an independent VCS
- Equal contribution to the delivery of services
- Best use of funding
- Consultation with residents
- Commitment to the Compact

Whilst these are the basic principles of the Compact, more detailed Codes will be jointly developed around: Consultation, Funding and Procurement, Volunteering and Community groups



# Commitment

## **The Worcestershire Compact commits Statutory Sector Partners to:**

- Recognise the independence of the VCS
- Work towards greater transparency and equity in the allocation of funding to the VCS
- Support the VCS to access external funding opportunities
- Keep the VCS informed of policy and procedures that may affect them
- Be as open and transparent in decision making as possible
- Rationalise VCS representation on management committees wherever possible

## **The Worcestershire Compact commits VCS Partners to:**

- Maintain and promote high standards of governance, accountability and conduct
- Develop quality standards where appropriate
- Ensure that responses to the statutory sector are informed and the result of wide consultation
- Actively involve beneficiaries, employees and volunteers in developing activities and services

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A full version of Worcestershire's Compact is available on [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/voluntary](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/voluntary)

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اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز سے متعلق مدد درکار ہو تو براہ مہربانی 01905 25121 پر فون کریں۔

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