

PRESS RELEASE
16/08/2011



Research indicates 88% of local areas support the Compact

Compact Voice has today published the results of a comprehensive survey into the state of local Compacts.

The survey is the first in an ongoing annual commitment to improve understanding of – and engagement with – local Compacts across England.

The survey covered 74% of local Compacts across England, and received responses from both voluntary and community sector and statutory sector representatives.

The results provide a mixed, but encouraging, picture across the country.

Key findings include:

- Overall, 88% of respondents (from both the voluntary and community and statutory sectors) agreed that “the Compact is important and that effort needs to be made to implement it in full”, with 60% agreeing strongly. The figure for statutory sector respondents was 82% (90% for voluntary and community sector) indicating that there is a strong cross-sector belief in the importance of the Compact.
- Whilst there is strong cross-sector belief in the Compact, the survey has highlighted the need for strong leadership on the Compact from both local and national government. 43% of respondents felt that leadership from senior officers would have the biggest impact on improving the Compact in their area; greater than the need for more resources for their Compact (32.6%).

Tom Elkins, Compact Voice Manager, said:

“The problem does not appear to be a failure to see the importance of the Compact. The survey findings demonstrates that the contrary is true.

However, the difference in perceptions between the sectors is concerning, particularly about how local Compacts and partnerships are faring. Many responses suggested that the problem is one of leadership and awareness, both locally and nationally. We will be using the findings from this survey to identify priority areas and key issues, which are acting as a barrier to better partnership working.”.

The survey also makes reference to responses to Freedom of Information Act requests issued by Compact Voice to 351 local authorities in England. The requests sought to establish whether local authorities were making cuts to voluntary and community sector organisations in proportion with their own reduction in settlement from central government. The report features a break down of this – and other information about funding cuts – across the 9 regions of England.

For more information about the report and the results of the survey, visit www.compactvoice.org.uk/survey2011. [Download the report here](#) (PDF).

Note to Editors:

- Research undertaken prior to the survey established that there are 202 active local Compacts.
- The survey received 283 responses covering 149 or 74% of local Compacts.
- Further information about the responses to Compact Voice's Freedom of Information Act requests can be found at www.compactvoice.org.uk/cutsdata.
- The Compact is the agreement between government and the voluntary and community sector (referred to collectively within the text of the Compact as civil society organisations) which sets out key principles and establishes a way of working that improves their relationship for mutual advantage.
- As well as the national Compact, most areas in England also have a local Compact, which interprets the principles set out in the Compact to reflect local need. As well as Local Authorities, many other public bodies have signed up to their local Compacts including police, fire and health organisations.
- Compact Voice represents the voluntary and community sector on the Compact. We are co-signatories on the national Compact, and negotiated its content on behalf of the sector, based on its views. We have a membership of 2500 and our board contains all the main infrastructure organisations in the voluntary and community sector as well as others. A full list of our board members is available on our website. We provide training, support, advice and information about better partnership working to both sectors both nationally and locally, representing the voluntary and community sector's interests and views to government, and championing the Compact.