

COMPACT AT WORK

Compact
VOICE

Compact Award
Winner 2013

Sunderland: Developing an innovative regional sharing network

Sunderland Partnership developed an innovative regional sharing network, where members reduce costs by swapping resources (either as a giveaway or loan). Sunderland Partnership has worked collaboratively with Sunderland City Council, Sunderland schools, Sunderland University, Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland and privately owned company WarpIT on the project.

What Happened

In 2010, Compact signatory Sunderland City Council underwent a restructure that led to the closure of buildings across the city. This meant that large quantities of furniture and equipment became redundant. Rather than send these to landfill, the council signed up to the then recently created web-based WarpIT reuse scheme, which resulted in over £45,000 of cost savings in just nine months.

The Sunderland Partnership helped to widen the network of organisations that made up the WarpIT network to include over 300 schools, the local NHS trust, Sunderland University and Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland (VCAS).

Most importantly, and in the spirit of Compact, the voluntary and community sector is allowed free access to the website, allowing Compact members to claim surplus resources from their corporate counterparts in a legal, efficient and controlled manner.

WarpIT not only allows for equipment to be exchanged but other resources can be loaned and shared with the confidence of sound legal agreements and terms and conditions. This means that the costs of expensive equipment like staging and audio visual

equipment can be shared by all partners, releasing resources for direct service provision.

WarpIT is now operating city-wide and includes offices, schools and voluntary organisations. All staff have access to the online system and are actively encouraged to use it for all their procurement needs. VCAS hosts a portal and administers WarpIT for the voluntary sector, though individual charities can register separately if required.

Impact

Sunderland Partnership, in its lead role in their Compact Implementation Group, understood the wider social value of WarpIT and the need to work with its voluntary sector partners around delivery.

The application of Compact principle 2.1 was important to the design of the service and its rollout, as was the need to ensure the opportunities for social impact and the resulting community empowerment under principle 2.2.

WarpIT is more than a transactional tool, as its use creates a positive impact on dignity, self-image and

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Compact Principles

Principle 2:
Effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services

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Innovation

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sense of wellbeing for those taking part. Experience has shown that in communities when people make connections they feel safer and happier, creating further opportunities and learning.

We believe that WarpIT prompts gateway behaviour for more sharing activities in and out of the workplace, by being an easy non-committal way to donate - as well as providing clear environmental benefits.

WarpIT has been a lever to use the Compact locally, leading to improved networks and new collaborations which have built new relationships. This innovative model of collaborative consumption has also allowed (in line with principle 3.2 of the Compact) a way for resources to be made available to voluntary organisations at a time of scarcity.

Over 450 partners have been able to work together, and the message is still being spread. The voluntary and community sector continues to enthusiastically take up support of this free tool.

On a practical level, the impact for partners has been avoiding thousands of pounds of expenditure (over £250K), whilst also saving carbon (102,318KG) and waste (37,771KG).



Relevant Compact Principles

2.1 Ensure that social, environmental and economic value forms a standard part of designing, developing and delivering policies, programmes and services.

2.2 Consider the social impact that may result from policy and programme development, and in particular consider how these would impact local efforts to inspire and encourage social action and to empower communities.

Related links

- WarpIT: www.warp-it.co.uk
- Sunderland Partnership: www.sunderlandpartnership.org.uk
- Sunderland Compact: www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk

Quote

This project was awarded a Compact Innovation Award in 2013.

Judges commented that they “were impressed by the WarpIT scheme, which reflects the Compact principles of effective working to promote better outcomes, through developing a model of collaborative consumption.

This model has helped the voluntary sector to have free access to surplus resources—and importantly, has saved over £250k expenditure.”

[Find out more about the 2013 Compact Awards here.](#)



Pictured: Staff from the Sunderland Partnership and WarpIT, who were awarded the 2013 Compact Innovation Award, presented by Simon Blake OBE, Chair of Compact Voice (pictured left).