

About the Compact:

Template for updating Compact web pages and sample copy

We strongly encourage Compact signatories from both sectors to take the time to ensure their website information about the Compact is up to date.

This document contains a suggested structure for your Compact web page/s, which you could use as a starting point. It also includes some text about the Compact and its benefits, which you can edit as necessary – we have tried to keep the information as brief as possible. We would suggest spreading it across several shorter pages.

Feel free to link to Compact Voice's website, which is regularly updated, if your organisation lacks the capacity to keep your own web pages up-to-date.

Some useful pages to link to:

- Compact news: www.compactvoice.org.uk/news
- About the Compact: www.compactvoice.org.uk/about-compact
- Compact resources, case studies and publications: www.compactvoice.org.uk/resources
- Compact Voice Twitter account: www.twitter.com/compactvoice

The most important things your web pages should include:

- up-to-date contact details for your local Compact
- a prominent link to download a .PDF or .DOC version of it
- a list of who is signed up to your local Compact
- encourage others to sign up to it in an easy, straightforward way

Suggested structure

This structure could sit as a sub-section on a Council for Voluntary Service or local authority website.

We would suggest drawing on the Compact Voice website wherever necessary, as it is updated frequently.

Pages you could include:

- **What is the Compact, and what does it offer?**
There is some text covering this below, which you can tailor as needed.
- **About your local Compact**
Include some information about your local Compact, including prominent links to download it and some information about its background and who is involved in managing or overseeing it. Encourage local organisations from both sectors to sign up to your local Compact. List current signatories.
- **News**
Having a news section does help to make your website look current and that it has not been forgotten or neglected. Feel free to link to www.compactvoice.org.uk/news.
- **Contact Us**
Include contact details for your local Compact in both sector
- **Compact Champions**
If your area has Compact Champions, outline who they are and what they do.

- **Links**

Include a link to download your local Compact here, as well as the national Compact and Accountability and Transparency Guide, and any other relevant reports or presentations.

- **Advice and support if things go wrong**

Outline the dispute resolution process in your local Compact if there is one. Include links to the Compact Accountability and Transparency Guide, any training that is available or who to contact to discuss any potential issues.

Useful links to include on your web pages:

- The Compact, PDF: www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/the_compact.pdf
- The Compact Accountability and Transparency Guide, PDF: www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/the_compact_accountability_guide.pdf
- Good practice case studies about local Compact working: www.compactvoice.org.uk/resources/case-studies
- Latest Compact and related policy news: www.compactvoice.org.uk/news.

Copy is included below covering the following:

- What is the Compact?
- Who is responsible for overseeing the national Compact?
- What does it offer? [Separate texts for voluntary organisations and statutory bodies]

What is the Compact?

The Compact is the agreement between government and the voluntary and community sector (often referred to as civil society), which sets out a way of working that improves their relationship for mutual advantage. It considers areas such as involvement in policy design, service design and delivery, funding arrangements, promoting equality and strengthening independence.

The Compact has existed since 1998. The latest version of the Compact (often referred to as the renewed Compact) was published in December 2010, and reflects policy developments resulting from the change of government.

An Accountability and Transparency Guide, which outlines steps you can take at national and local level if Compact principles have been breached, accompanies the national Compact. These steps include dispute resolution, internal complaints procedures and ombudsmen functions.

As well as the national Compact, most areas in England also have a local Compact, developed to reflect local need. Local Compacts may cover different local government bodies, and can span district, county or regional areas.

Who is responsible for overseeing the national Compact?

The Compact is overseen nationally by two organisations. Compact Voice represents the voluntary and community sector on the Compact.

Compact Voice is a co-signatory on the national Compact, and negotiated its content on behalf of the voluntary and community sector, based on the views and opinions of their members.

The Compact is supported across government by the Office for Civil Society, which is led by Nick Hurd MP, the Minister for Civil Society.

The Office for Civil Society is based within the Cabinet Office.

Nick Hurd MP is one of the co-signatories on the national Compact, along with the Prime Minister Rt Hon David Cameron MP and Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Every government department is signed up to the Compact.

[Text for voluntary and community sector organisations]

What does it offer?

The Compact offers improved funding processes, clear consultation standards, enforceable rights, and an overall improvement in working relationships.

Don't wait until things go wrong before using it. Take it to meetings, use it as a partnership tool and draw on it to improve funding relationships.

Strengthening your independence

The Compact safeguards the sector's independence, including its right within the law to campaign and challenge Government policy and the right to manage its own affairs without undue interference.

An independent sector is vital for a healthy society but we often need to do more to ensure funding and relationships do not compromise our mission and values.

It's crucial that the Sector's voice is heard through fearless but responsible campaigning. Groups should also challenge attempts by funders to appoint themselves to Trustee boards or impose restrictive funding conditions and monitoring procedures.

Fair funding and good consultation

The Compact means fair and effective funding and commissioning processes, and for the sector to be involved in designing services. Funding should be allocated on a full cost recovery basis, for three or more years, with proportionate monitoring, a fair balance of risk and three months' notice and reasons given when funding ends.

The Compact also sets standards for government to conduct proper consultations which are clearly defined, open and meaningful, and allow at least twelve weeks for responses and giving feedback.

[Text for statutory sector organisations]

What does it offer?

The Compact offers improved funding processes, clear consultation standards, enforceable rights, and an overall improvement in working relationships across the sectors.

Don't wait until things go wrong before using it. Take it to meetings, use it as a partnership tool and draw on it to improve funding relationships.

The Compact goes beyond being merely a list of activities – it signifies a sense of spirit and an approach which people can understand and respond to without ever needing to read a case study or action plan.

A Compact way of working is about not just doing things the right way, but committing to continue doing so. Our local Compact acts as a way of showing our partners that we take a collaborative approach to working together, and that we are a trustworthy partner.