

COMPACT AT WORK



Making the Compact work for you

Wiltshire: Integrating the Compact into local strategy

By aligning their Compact with the Wiltshire Community Plan, the Wiltshire Compact Board has helped to raise its profile.

Impact

Local Compacts are about effective partnership working between the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and the public sector.

But in some areas, it can be difficult for a local Compact to attain the profile it deserves, particularly in a context of other partnership strategies, agreements, and groups. The solution to this problem devised by members of the Compact Board in Wiltshire is as simple as it is effective.

Wiltshire's community plan 'People, Places and Promises: Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026' is all about working together to make 'stronger and more resilient communities'. The Compact Board recognised that Compact principles would need to be re-energised across Wiltshire if partners were to have confidence to come together and deliver this plan.

Establishing a link between the community plan and the Compact was critical in ensuring the new Compact was seen as relevant by local partners.

The Wiltshire Compact made this link explicit from early on by including a foreword signed by Jane Scott OBE, Chair of Wiltshire Public Services Board and Terry Deegan, Chair of Wiltshire

Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly:

The Wiltshire Assembly has agreed a vision for stronger and more resilient communities, set out in 'People, Places and Promises - The Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026'. That vision can only be delivered if we all work together, and have the confidence to do so because we have already agreed what is important to us. We commend The Wiltshire Compact to you all.

Furthermore, the Wiltshire Compact has appropriated the language (and even the artwork) of 'People, Places and Promises: Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026' by articulating Compact principles as the "promises" component of it. This has helped to ensure that the Compact is seen as vital in delivering area-wide objectives and has ensured that the Compact has been mainstreamed into the local strategic framework.

As part of the renewal process the Compact Board agreed to create a new website for the Compact which includes a comprehensive set of resources and contact information. A set of 10 guides are being developed to explain how different audiences can use and benefit from the Wiltshire Compact.

Published:
March 2012

Theme:

- Implementing Compact
- Supporting VCOs

Compact name:
Wiltshire Compact

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Compact Principles

- 1: Partnership working

Tags

Implementation
Local Compacts

Summary

When renewing their local Compact, the Wiltshire Compact Board showed sound judgment by seizing the opportunity offered by an update to the council's strategic planning, which followed Wiltshire's transition into a unitary authority in 2009.

As part of this transition, government insisted that a revised community plan was produced by April 2011. The Compact Board was able to see the potential for aligning the Compact, and subsequently timed a renewal to take advantage of this opportunity, linking them together through this process.

The innovative approach to mainstreaming the Compact into strategic partnership structures in Wiltshire is in keeping with the excellent work that has been done on the Compact in recent years. The Compact Board is comprised of high level representatives from the VCS as well as from statutory sector agencies including Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue, NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Probation trust, and the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils.



Rather than giving the Chair to a representative of either the VCS or the public sector, the Board has developed an approach which ensures that the Compact is seen as balanced. The Board has an independent Chair in Peter Baxter and joint vice-chairs from both sectors.

Quote

Compact Board Chair Peter Baxter said “I am delighted that the new local Compact for Wiltshire was so readily accepted by all parties. Its strength lies in the manner of its creation, the keen participation by all contributors, and a mutual desire to create an open and frank culture, in which modern realities can be faced with pre-agreed commitments.”

Peter went on to say “Wiltshire has always had a strong sense of partnership. The next few undoubtedly difficult years will show how well that investment underpins the agreements made in our Compact”.

Relevant Compact Principles

1: Partnership Working

Related links

- [The Wiltshire Compact: 2011 and beyond...](#)
- [People, Places and Promises: Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026](#)