

Yorkshire and The Humber Regional Compact

A framework for strong and effective relationships
between regional public sector and third sector
organisations in Yorkshire and The Humber



Compact
working together better together



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

FOREWORD by Felicity Everiss
Regional Director
Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber

I am delighted to be contributing to the Regional Compact.

Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber values the third sector's independence, approach and reach into communities and views regional third sector organisations as key partners who help design and deliver services that those communities want.

I am confident that this Compact will continue to improve partnership working and relationships between the regional public and third sectors in Yorkshire and The Humber, which is so crucial to the economic and social well being of the region.

Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber is committed to upholding and implementing the Regional Compact.

Felicity Everiss

Context

The 'Compact on Relations between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector in England' (Compact), first introduced in 1998, is the framework agreement for how the government and the third sector¹ should work together.

The Compact is underpinned by **Codes of Good Practice** on:

- Funding and Procurement
- Consultation and Policy Appraisal
- Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Organisations
- Volunteering
- Community Groups



Together the Compact and Codes set out principles and a shared vision, along with undertakings for both sides of the relationship. It applies to central government departments, Government Offices for the regions, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies, and to the range of organisations in the third sector.

The Regional Compact for Yorkshire and the Humber between the public sector and the third sector will continue to build strong and effective relationships at a regional level. It will promote partnership working and common understanding of different sectors' and organisations' roles and responsibilities. The Regional Compact will help both the third sector and the public sector to be effective in working towards Yorkshire and Humber being a great place to live and work.

The Regional Compact for Yorkshire and the Humber supports the national Compact and the local Compacts which already exist and are being developed further in each of our local authority areas.

The Regional Compact is not designed to supersede local arrangements and Compacts. However, it clearly sets out the main principles and commitments on which these relationships can be based.



The Regional Compact will help to:

- develop, continue and improve a shared understanding and appreciation of the work of the regional third sector
- strengthen partnership working between regional third sector organisations and regional public sector bodies.

This shared understanding and strengthened partnership working will:

- help achieve improvements for the people, environment and economy of Yorkshire and the Humber
- help to attract investment and resources into the region
- help influence local, regional, national and international policy and programmes.

¹ The Government defines the third sector as non-governmental organisations that are value driven and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives. It includes voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives, mutuals and housing associations.

Regional Compact shared values

The Regional Compact commits signatories to the following shared values and to working together towards achieving these in Yorkshire and The Humber.

Diversity

To value and encourage diversity and work to promote community cohesion.

- Promote the social and economic benefits of living and working in a diverse region
- Explore how different communities can work together while recognising their uniqueness

Engagement

To make sure partners are appropriately involved in developing regional policy and strategy.

- Work together to understand better the views of citizens and communities and to enable them to influence how policy is developed and implemented



Inclusiveness

To reduce inequalities and tackle social exclusion.

- Recognise, value, promote and work with the full range of third sector organisations

Independence

To make sure the third sector remains independent.

- Recognise, respect and support the independence of the third sector, including its right to campaign and to challenge policy

Openness

To operate through open and accountable organisations which aim to maintain high standards of service and governance.

- Consult widely and appropriately and in a timely fashion, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks consultation period
- Minimise bureaucracy associated with application, qualification, monitoring, report and audit processes and encourage adoption of good practice framework

Partnership

To recognise the need to work in partnership to have maximum impact and for the region to achieve its full potential.

- Ensure that policy development and implementation addresses the needs and circumstances of groups and communities across the region

Responsibility

To respect partners' different roles and responsibilities.

- Recognise the role of public sector bodies in making and executing public policy, and in managing public expenditure appropriately

Sustainability

To promote a viable third sector in the region.

- Uphold the principles of full cost recovery in preparing project budgets and considering funding applications
- Develop appropriate funding and contracting models to improve the financial stability of organisations and support long-term planning

Case study 1

Partnership...

In April 2007, **Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH)** and the **Regional Forum** ran a joint management team meeting and business planning session. The session looked at the priorities and work activities of the two organisations and identified key areas where the two could collaborate and work in partnership. The sessions will be repeated on at least an annual basis.

The joint working between LGYH and the Regional Forum has included:

- working together on the Third Sector Strategy for the region;
- working together on the regional Service Development Advisory Group and developing the region's Local Government and Partners' Improvement Strategy for 2008/11
- joint promotion of events, eg FOOTSEY; commissioning events, etc
- judging the local government *Making a Difference* awards;
- working together on 2012 and volunteering; and
- workforce planning across the sectors.

Where to from here?

The Regional Compact is part of a process for continuously improving relationships and partnership working between regional public sector and third sector organisations. This agreement is a starting point, not a conclusion. Both sectors are committed to working together to develop its implementation.

The Regional Compact will adopt the current national Codes of Good Practice on:

- Funding and Procurement
- Consultation and Policy Appraisal
- Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Organisations
- Volunteering
- Community Groups

A Regional Compact Working Group made up of representatives from partner organisations, will continue to help promote, develop and implement the Regional Compact and encourage partnership working to develop.

Each year, signatories to the Regional Compact will reflect on how the Regional Compact is working and post these reports on their organisations' websites.

Case study 2

...Inclusiveness

The **Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum** was launched in Leeds on December 8 2005. With its 21 Council members representing nine faiths from throughout the region it gives faith communities a bigger voice in the region in drawing up regional strategies and policies on key issues such as health, transport and social inclusion.

The **Yorkshire and Humber Assembly** supported and funded the development of an initial regional multi-faiths steering group which commissioned research to look at how faith communities could contribute to the regional agenda. The Faiths Forum was the result and the Assembly continues to support it and its Assembly representative, recognising the unique perspective and insight it can bring to regional development debates.

Declarations

We the undersigned, on behalf of our organisations, commit to implementing and upholding the Yorkshire and The Humber Regional Compact:



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Felicity Everiss".

Signed

Felicity Everiss, Regional Director



The Regional Forum supports the Regional Compact's aim of developing shared understanding and agreed ways of working between the third sector and other partners in the public sector.

We believe that the third sector has a vital role to play in creating a vibrant region with a high quality of life for all. The Regional Compact will be an important framework for engagement and partnership working between sectors for the benefit of the region. It will provide an environment of mutual trust that engenders a mature relationship between sectors.

The Regional Compact is a symbol of the region's commitment to good and productive working relationships.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Robinson".

Signed

Judy Robinson, Director



As the Regional Strategic Partnership, the Assembly has a very close and productive working relationship with the third sector through the Regional Forum. In supporting this Compact, the Assembly acknowledges the input and effort the sector makes to improving the region, often for its most vulnerable. The sector's contribution to planning, scrutiny and housing and developing a more sustainable region demonstrate how valuable a partner they are. Signing this Compact is part of our ongoing commitment to the sector as a key partner.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Martin".

Signed

Chris Martin, Executive Director



The value of a regional compact is that it represents good partnership work and practice. It represents a shared set of values.

Signed *Inderjit Bhogal* **Inderjit Bhogal**, Director



Since it was established in 1999, Yorkshire Forward has worked in close partnership with the region's voluntary and community sector. We have done so because we recognise the added value the sector brings to the economic and social life of Yorkshire and the Humber, and we are proud that we have been able to support key organisations in their growth and development. The Compact embodies the values and principles that we at Yorkshire Forward have endeavoured to apply in our work with a diverse and vibrant voluntary and community sector, and I am delighted to endorse this Compact.

Signed *Tom Riordan* **Tom Riordan** Chief Executive



At LGYH we are committed to working together with organisations in the community and voluntary sector and we believe that the Compact will provide a framework for future collaboration and partnership working.

Signed *C. Hassan* **Carole Hassan**, Chief Executive



The ideal of the compact is to ensure mature relationships between the public sector and the third sector based on openness, partnership, transparency and accountability. The Regional Compact is to be welcomed if it can further this agenda in regional governance.

Signed *Liz Carnelley* **Liz Carnelley**, Chief Executive

Black and Minority Ethnic, Voluntary and Community Sector Regional Panel

The BME VCS Regional Panel is pleased to sign up to the Regional Compact as it has the potential to strengthen local accountability and community cohesion. BME organisations and communities have always supported the concept of Compact since its inception back in 1998 and recognise the gaps that still remain between commitment to Compact principles of good partnership and their full delivery.

As an Executive Member of Voice 4 Change England (a national partnership for the black and minority ethnic third sector) the Panel had the opportunity to make direct representations and contributions to the consultation on the Compact Business Plan, the content of which will allow the overall plan to be sensitive to the needs of the BME sector. Therefore, the BME VCS Regional Panel welcomes the opportunity to work in close collaboration to progress this Regional Compact.



Signed

Naheed Arshad-Mather, Chair

Case study 3

...Sustainability

Early in 2007, **Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH)** changed its funding model for a particular programme, so that the organisations receiving this funding in 2007-2008 had greater financial stability.

Following a bidding process, GOYH awarded Office of the Third Sector, Regional Infrastructure Programme funding to six regional voluntary and community sector projects.

The original funding model for this programme was for grants to be paid to projects quarterly in arrears of expenditure. One of the project managers commented that this arrangement might leave their organisation with a more difficult cash-flow position. In response GOYH was able to agree that it would make grant payments quarterly in advance for this project. GOYH then notified the remaining projects that they could also claim this particular funding in advance rather than in arrears.

Receiving grant payments in advance of expenditure will improve these voluntary and community sector organisations' financial stability and help their longer term planning, particularly those organisations that are smaller and less well established. In turn, these organisations will be better able to contribute to the aim of the Regional Infrastructure Programme - to influence policy decisions for the benefit of diverse communities in the region – and become more effective in the long term. A partnership approach from which both the regional voluntary and statutory sector will benefit.

Web link

www.thecompact.org.uk

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