

Our Compact Framework



DtS Board

Our Compact

Introduction and Foreword

Doncaster is unique and so are its people, Doncaster's communities deserve excellence in every aspect of their lives.

Doncaster has been undergoing a major transformation over the last few years. These include developments such as the Transport Interchange, Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield, Doncaster Education City, the New Performance Venue, the Community Stadium, Doncaster Lakeside and the M18 Corridor. We are shaping our future together to develop a new vision for the people of Doncaster.

The Borough Strategy (Doncaster's Community Plan, 2025) aims to improve people's quality of life by providing an agreed 'picture' of the main challenges that the Borough faces. It is also intended to bring improvements to service delivery by using this common understanding to co-ordinate the work of private, public and voluntary sectors. The strategy also contains measures of success (or key results), which will be used to assess our progress in addressing our challenges.

The aim of the LAA is to integrate and align public services in Doncaster. It sets out how services will be developed according to the needs of the customer, focused on those with the greatest need, rather than individual organisational boundaries. For service users this means that services will be easier to access, delivered in their local communities. One of the shared priorities of the LAA is to "Empower residents to make a positive contribution by participating in wide ranging social, cultural, community and environmental activities, with the support of the Third Sector (The Voluntary Community and Faith Sector).

The Third Sector is well recognised for its contribution to the regeneration of Doncaster and is expanding into mainstream service delivery. It is therefore an equal partner of the local strategic partnership (DtS) and through the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) has representatives on all of the theme boards and the DtS board. The CEN is also the key mechanism by which DtS will consult with the Third Sector, as identified in Doncaster's Local Area Agreement and the CEN/DtS protocol.

The DtS realises that as well as the physical changes that are being experienced across the Borough of Doncaster, there is also a need to build upon the relationships between the public, voluntary and community sector organisations and businesses that operate in Doncaster.

Consequently, it was agreed to develop this Compact for Doncaster. The Compact will build upon existing partnership working between the sectors to increase mutual understanding and respect for each other's views and opinions. It is anticipated there will be an increase in knowledge, communication and information sharing between the sectors. As a result of this, the sectors will work together more effectively to support the people of Doncaster to achieve their aspirations.

Background

The National Compact was developed by the Government and the Third Sector and was agreed in November 1998. The Government sees the Third Sector as an essential partner in delivering high quality public services and recognises the unique contribution of that sector. It is in response to this, that the Government is encouraging the adoption of Compact principles and guidelines at a local level where most Third Sector activity takes place.

Our Compact builds upon the Doncaster Health and Social Care Compact that was developed and launched in 2004. It has been written to complement and enhance other existing partnership arrangements between partner organisations. A workshop was co-ordinated in partnership with Doncaster CVS, the DtS and Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (The Council), to discuss how to develop an overarching compact for Doncaster. A steering group for the Doncaster Compact was set up in May 2005.

The Compact is a voluntary commitment by organisations to work together to mutually agreed standards. However, all organisations that sign up to the Compact are committed to making it work in practice. The Compact was first published and launched in November 2005. This revised edition captures the changes that have taken place since then.

The Compact is for all public sector organisations operating within the Doncaster Borough, Third Sector organisations, social enterprises and businesses with which they have dealings.

1. What is a COMPACT?

A Compact is a written understanding drawn up jointly between local public bodies, Third Sector organisations, social enterprises and businesses that is designed to provide a framework for defining, enhancing and developing good and productive relationships between the different sectors in Doncaster.

The National Compact is an agreement between the Third Sector and Government to improve their relationship for mutual advantage.

The Local Compact for Doncaster, which is being led by DtS, aims to do this locally between the different sectors, including Third Sector organisations and social enterprises, The Council, NHS Doncaster, Emergency services, other local public sector organisations and local business.

The Compact sets out a shared vision and this will be supported by codes of good practice containing guidelines and action plans covering:

- **Funding & Procurement**

This code seeks to ensure that financial issues between all the sectors are dealt with in a structured and transparent way and in accordance with a range of robust principles. These principles shall be applied to any activities that involve a transfer of funding between the sectors. This will ensure a realistic approach to funding and procurement.

- **Volunteering**

This code seeks to ensure that there is consistency in the way that volunteering arrangements are operated in Doncaster. It will ensure that volunteers are fully valued for the positive and diverse contribution they make to supporting organisations.

The code is applicable to all operations that incorporate a contribution from volunteers.

- **Black & Minority Ethnic Communities**

This code seeks to ensure that equality, fair treatment and social inclusion are integral to all sectors' decision-making. It will ensure that the sectors take into account the needs of BME communities in their policy development and set action plans to meet identified needs, implement those action plans and evaluate their effectiveness in partnership.

- **Consultation & Policy Appraisal**

This code seeks to ensure consultation on policy formulation and service delivery. Policy will be informed and shaped by a wide range of experiences, views and perceptions. It will consider services, people and communities with regard to the potential or actual impact of those policies. This code seeks to ensure that consultation and/or the transmission of information, on any issue between the sectors, is carried out in accordance with a set of principles that include agreed processes and timescales.

- **Community Groups**

This code seeks to ensure the skills and experience of community groups add value to policy and service delivery, particularly at a local level. The community sector is very diverse, ranging from small, informal community groups to large multi-purpose community organisations. It contributes greatly to civil society and to social inclusion and cohesion.

- **Resolving differences - Mediation**

This code seeks to ensure that differences are dealt with effectively, at the lowest possible level and within a realistic timeframe.

2. Why have a COMPACT?

We believe that a Compact between the voluntary and community sectors and statutory agencies active in Doncaster will:

- Promote better understanding between the sectors
- Provide and clarify shared guidelines on how best to work together
- Provide the opportunity to explore what partnership really means in practice
- Clarify expectations on all parties
- Recognise the complementary contribution each sector makes to developing public policy and services
- Provide commitment and shared vision by all parties to the Compact
- Improve relationships so that agencies work better together

3. Definitions

The terms "Public Sector" and "Third Sector" are used in many different settings and there can sometimes be different perceptions as to their individual meanings. This is what they mean in this document:

3.1 Public Sector

This refers to organisations that have been established by Parliament to deal with certain matters that the law says they must deal with. Sometimes called Statutory Bodies, these organisations have separate areas of accountability. Some of the services provided by the different Public Bodies have a direct link with each other and in these areas there is a joint approach.

Examples of statutory organisations include NHS Doncaster, The Council, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Doncaster College.

3.2 The Third Sector

The Local Government Management Board has given the following definition:

'Independent voluntary or community groups that are not for profit organisations formed by people who have come together of their own free will to respond to issues regarding the quality of life of themselves or fellow citizens'

The Third Sector (sometimes called the voluntary, community and faith sector) can include charities, community organisations, housing associations, campaigning organisations, religious (faith based) organisations, sports groups, arts groups and environmental groups. The groups are independent, they define their own aims and objectives and set their own methods by which they achieve them. The groups often have a constitution or terms of reference which sets out what they do and how they do it.

Community groups are often categorised as having no paid staff, run by volunteers and with few financial resources. These groups often get together to meet their own common interests or those of their geographic community.

Voluntary organisations have Boards of Trustees or Management Committees. They have paid staff and often provide a specialist or generalist service that benefits the public or represents local interests.

Third Sector involvement in the area of Compact development in Doncaster has been led by Doncaster CVS. This has ensured the sector's input at all stages of the development.

Examples from the Third Sector are Doncaster CVS, Doncaster Women's Centre YWCA, The Community Empowerment Network and Doncaster Access Group.

The Private Sector, by which we mean businesses, has been involved with developing the compact through the Chamber of Commerce.

Social Enterprises are businesses that trade and use the wealth they create for social benefit.

4. Principles and Code of Conduct

There is a range of principles that underpins effective partnership working between the different sectors, and the partners to this Compact will work within these principles in conducting all partnership activity in Doncaster. It is important within partnerships that communication and information is shared, open, and transparent to include the following:

Recognising Differences

The Compact aims to recognise that exclusion can occur when the differing access needs of the whole population are not taken into consideration. This document aims to promote social inclusion by encouraging partners to work creatively, in ways that involve individuals from all communities on an equal basis.

This Compact recognises that a range of factors can shape the experience of inclusion and/or exclusion in accessing services, employment and other life opportunities.

These include:

- age
- gender, including gender reassignment (a person who is transgender)
- colour
- race, (including Gypsies and Travellers)
- nationality, ethnic or national origin, (including, asylum seekers and refugees)
- first language
- religion
- disability
- sexual orientation (including heterosexual, gay, lesbian or bisexual people)
- marital and family status, (including lone parents and looked after children)
- social and employment status
- domestic circumstances (including homeless and rough sleepers)
- political affiliation
- alternative lifestyles (Gypsies and Travellers)
- other circumstances (for example ex offenders and people who experience poverty)

Selflessness - Individuals seek to serve the partnership interest and have a duty to appropriately promote issues and undertake activities that improve and promote positive partnership working.

Respect for Others - Individuals seek to treat other people with respect at all times. Aggressive, confrontational, or bullying behaviour is unacceptable. Unlawful or unreasonable discrimination against any person is contrary to positive partnership working.

Honesty and Integrity - Individuals seek to conduct themselves in a manner which is reasonable and appropriate without bringing his or her position into serious disrepute.

Openness - Individuals seek to be as open as possible about their actions and those they represent. Wherever possible, matters will be addressed in an open and transparent manner

Commitment – We will seek to share responsibilities in any process, with an active involvement of the Third Sector in the planning, implementation and alteration of current and future services and policies.

Effectiveness – Each area of need and service is different and methods of involvement will need to vary accordingly. We will seek to design services to suit the specific needs of individual participants and groups to involve appropriate people in appropriate settings.

Timeliness – We will seek to consider the needs of groups and individuals with regard to timescales where a delivery timetable is required.

Understanding – We will seek to use jargon free language, taking account of languages other than English. We will use a variety of means of communication in order to make the process accessible to all.

Resources – We will seek to support the Third Sector to participate effectively in the process. This support should take a variety of forms e.g. training, translation, respite care, transport etc.

A successful partnership will be on the basis of equal rights, responsibilities, mutual respect, recognition and celebration of difference as well as a shared purpose.

An effective partnership requires innovative ways of working, which enhance communication and collaboration between partners.

5. Taking the Compact Forward

This COMPACT is a living document and this principle will be supported through the partnership:

- Finding appropriate ways to implement the Compact philosophy within their organisations
- Monitoring its success
- Developing processes and procedures for reviewing its implementation

6. Implementation and Review

The Compact is a written agreement. The process of implementing the spirit behind the agreement is as important as the written content. We are committed to making the Compact work in practice as a means of strengthening relations across the partnership.

We recognise that to achieve its goals, it must be practised, monitored and managed through a process of on-going review.

A Compact Monitoring and Implementation Group (CMIG) will be formed to regularly monitor this agreement.

