

Compact

working together | better together



Compact
for
Blackpool



Introduction to Compact

On behalf of the Blackpool Strategic Partnership, I am delighted to introduce the Blackpool Compact. Compact was first developed nationally in 1988 and provides an agreement between the Public and Third Sector which defines their relationship and rules of engagement.

Following the review of the Blackpool Strategic Partnership and the launch of the Third Sector Strategic Partnership the time seemed right for the Blackpool Compact to be reviewed. In the spirit of true partnership working and building on the foundations of openness, trust and honesty fostered over recent months the Partnership Board was delighted to ask the Third Sector Strategic Partnership to oversee this process and manage Compact on behalf of us all.

I am very pleased with the reviewed Compact. It offers a sound framework which clearly sets out the responsibilities and challenges faced by both sectors. We are very lucky that within the town we have a vibrant Third Sector fulfilling a number of roles which contribute to the Partnerships ability to ensure quality services are delivered to the most vulnerable in our society. The diversity of the sector ensures that people are able to access a wide range of services creating a sense of choice. I recognise that in many cases vulnerable people are more willing to engage with a charity or voluntary organisation than they are with the statutory sector and as a result I recognise the value of the Third Sector in helping us to engage with those hard to reach groups.

This document sets out the key principles of the Blackpool Compact and is under-pinned by a number of codes of practice which clearly define the detail of the relationship.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who has been involved in scoping this document, I feel confident it will help to underpin our future relationships and feel proud of the commitment, drive and determination shown by so many of you in making this happen.

Peter Callow
Chair of Blackpool
Strategic Partnership
and Leader of Blackpool Council



What is Compact

The Compact defines the relationship between partners in the Third Sector and Public Sector in Blackpool. It is not an organisation that can be joined nor is it an additional day to day practice.

It is the adopted policy of the Blackpool Local Strategic Partnership, and it is embedded in all of our work, and the relationships upon which that work is based.

The Compact is the essential ingredient for a successful Blackpool Strategic Partnership and is intended to build trust between people working in these areas and to give a consistency of experience of these people.

Compact is a living entity that needs to be supported and helped to grow.

The purpose of Compact is to create a sustainable and lasting relationship between the Public and Third Sectors.

It also needs to be reviewed from time to time to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

Ensuring that services and social good are delivered in a way that recognises the differing needs of stakeholders, including Voluntary and Community Groups and service recipients.



The Compact Partners

Compact is intended to guide the relationship between the Public and Third Sectors in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Government. However there is nothing to stop the Private Sector, and/or Private or Profit making Organisations adopting the same values.

The Public Sector is any Organisation or agency whose existence is primarily due to governmental mandate and legislation.

For the purpose of this document this includes:

- Blackpool Council
- Blackpool NHS
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue
- Blackpool Police Service
- The Probation Service

The Third Sector comprises of those organisations that are formed on a voluntary basis and which primarily operate on a not for personal profit basis, while delivering some kind of social change or service.

Typically this Sector will include:

- Charities
- Voluntary Organisations
- Community Groups
- Residents Associations
- Social Enterprises
- Members Co-operatives
- Faith Groups

These groups will deliver many different kinds of services and will be constituted in many different ways, but will be based on similar principals



The Compact is divided into two sections

Core agreement

The Core agreement lays out a broad set of principles by which the parties will conduct themselves when working together on the development and improvement of Blackpool and the lives of its residents.

While it highlights the common values that we share it also recognises the unique nature of the sectors and the different needs and responsibilities that we each have. At the heart of this recognition is a series of undertakings that each party makes to ensure that the future of Blackpool Strategic Partnership is a positive and productive one.

The Core agreement underpins the Codes of Practice that compliment and augment the Compact.

These Codes of Practice provide detailed guidance as the standard of practice that is expected of all parties within the Compact.

Codes of Practice

The Codes of Practice provide detailed guidance around specific areas of work between the Public and Third Sectors.

Like the rest of the Compact the Codes of Practice are subject to regular review and adaptation.

There are no limits on the number or diversity of codes that the Compact can support but all must be adopted by the Compact and the Blackpool Strategic Partnership Board before they can become part of the Compact.



The Shared Vision

The Compact for Blackpool is about respecting the role that we all play in the life of the town and underpinning that respect through our values including effective communication and consultation, honesty in our actions, working in partnership, being accountable and welcoming, supporting and engaging inclusively.

Our Shared Principles

As the organisations and agencies that make up the Blackpool Strategic Partnership we recognise that we have a set of common or shared values:

- The Community, Voluntary, Faith groups, Social Enterprises, and Co-operatives that make up the Third Sector are recognised as being an essential part of the democratic process that compliments rather than competes with the Public Sector agencies.

Making not only a valuable contribution to the social, economic and environmental well being of our town, but also as an essential part of the processes that improve the quality of life for Blackpool residents.
- Working in partnership towards common aims and objectives provides added value to the services in the town.
- Taking the time to understand each other and consult properly over ideas, policies and actions, builds relationships, widens vision, improves policy development, and enhances the design and delivery of services and programmes.
- The diversity of our communities adds to our richness as a society and this diversity needs to be cherished and supported.

Compact: Principles into practice

We are all involved in the social, economic and cultural development of Blackpool.

We recognise we must put our shared principles into action if they are to achieve anything, therefore we make the commitments documented on the following pages:



Public Organisations commit to:

Recognise the independence and unique nature of the Third Sector, including its right within the law to campaign and challenge local bodies such as Council irrespective of any funding arrangements that are in place.

Ensure that all elected officials, officers, staff and volunteers within the Public Sector are aware of the Compact and work within both its spirit and letter.

Promote, engage, deliver and support effective working relationships and ensure a consistent and co-ordinated approach when dealing with Third Sector partners.

Adhere to the principles of open government and good regulation (see Code of Practice)

Treat all Third Sector organisations and their employees with the same respect and dignity that they would afford Public Sector colleagues, and that they would themselves expect to receive in the course of their work.

Communicate effectively with Third Sector colleagues and community representatives to ensure that high quality, productive and sustainable relationships are developed and maintained.

Operate all funding and commissioning in an open and transparent way (see Code of Conduct)

Have funding policies and practices that promote sustainability and long term planning within the Third Sector Organisations.

Ensure that services, support and other dealings are carried out within the terms of the Code of Practice.

Ensure that all consultation within the community is carried out within the terms of the Code of Practice.

Support reviews of the operation of this Compact at regular intervals.

Third Sector Organisations commit to:

Work towards a World Class Third Sector for Blackpool that provides the representation and services that the people of Blackpool deserve.

Promote effective working relationships with Public Organisations, to be aware that there are legal and practical limitations on the Public Sector and to respect the professionalism of public servants in their dealings with them.

Develop appropriate partnerships and consortia that allow organisations to make the most of the strengths and find support for their weaknesses so as to give the best possible service provision to the residents of Blackpool.

Ensure that organisations wanting to work with Public Sector or to receive public funding are supported to develop appropriate quality management and robust systems in keeping with the relevant Code of Practice.

Put into place policies for promoting best practice and equality of opportunity in activities, employment, involvement of volunteers and service provision.

Invest in the training and development of community volunteers and staff as a matter of course to build the social and economic capital of the Third Sector in delivering services and social change.

Help make representation of the Third Sector effective by working together on common issues and breaking down barriers that promote isolation and unnecessary competition, communicate effectively in order to promote best practice and to avoid duplication.

Promote and support the volunteering process and help to get it the contribution that it makes to the life blood of the town known.

Manage the Compact through the Third Sector Strategic Partnership on behalf of the Blackpool Strategic Partnership in an effective and professional manner and support reviews of the operation of this Compact at regular intervals.

Managing the Compact

The Compact will be managed on a day to day basis by the office of the Blackpool Third Sector Strategic Partnership.

Resolution of disagreements

It is recognised that from time to time people may interpret the Compact differently and that there may even be occasions when individuals or agencies choose to ignore it. For this reason the Compact has a dispute resolution process that all parties are bound by.

In the first instance all disagreements over the meaning of or misuse of the Compact will be dealt with by the Blackpool Third Sector Strategic Partnership manager's office, who will bring the parties together informally to discuss issues and try to resolve matters. If this process fails the issue will be referred to the Compact Group.

The Compact Group will investigate any case referred to it by the Blackpool Third Sector Strategic Partnership Manager and will seek to meet the parties involved within fourteen days.

The Compact Group will seek to rule upon a resolution or provide clarification of the Compact's meaning within seven days of the investigation being concluded.

It is expected that due to the diverse and representative nature of the Compact Group that all parties will accept the Groups ruling, and that this ruling will be adhered to.

Where the Compact Group feels that a change to the Compact document is necessary then such changes will be made in draft form and submitted to the Blackpool Strategic Partnership Board for consideration and adoption.

The Compact Group

The Compact Group will be made up of twelve representatives drawn from the partners of the Local Strategic Partnership.

Two from
Blackpool Council, including
one elected Councillor

Two from
Blackpool NHS

One from
Lancashire Constabulary

One from
Lancashire Fire and Rescue

Two from
Community Organisations

Two from
Voluntary Organisations

One from
Social Enterprise Sector

One from
Faith Groups not included in
the above.

Irrespective of this process the Compact Group will undertake to review the Compact documents annually and revise them appropriately.

All such revisions will be sent to the Blackpool Strategic Partnership board for consideration and adoption.



Advice and support

for advice and support contact

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