

Wigan Borough Partnership

# COMPACT



working  
together





# Introduction

**Welcome** to the latest version of the Wigan Borough **COMPACT**.

This **COMPACT** between partners from all sectors in the Borough of Wigan provides a framework that will help to guide our partnership working at every level.

The **COMPACT** is a key element of our Community Plan. It has been developed within the Community Plan framework on the basis that effective partnership working will enable us to achieve the shared goals set out in our Community Plan vision that individual agencies could never reach alone.

The **COMPACT** was originally established in 2001, and set out principles and commitments that we wanted to continue to endorse and promote.

The range of workshops, surveys and discussions which shaped the original text have been followed by more recent

consultation across the current networks, leading to the production of this document.

The **COMPACT** is a document every group and organisation working in the Wigan Borough will want to sign up to. We hope this new format, and the new ways of promoting the **COMPACT**, will make it increasingly visible and relevant.





### What is it?

The **COMPACT** is a partnership agreement between voluntary and community groups and other partners in the Wigan Borough Partnership.

### What does it do?

The purpose of the **COMPACT** in Wigan is to guide the relationship between partners and help set out mutual responsibilities.

### Why is it important?

It has a positive impact on the relationship between community and voluntary groups and statutory organisations. The **COMPACT** should lead to greater understanding, openness and accountability. It is not just

another strategy. It is a process that will encourage communication between community and voluntary groups and statutory organisations. It has clear and agreed targets to achieve and a committed group of supporters working to see that these actually happen.

### Why do we need a COMPACT?

We already have partnerships in place that bring people and organisations together to deal with common issues. We need the **COMPACT** to help us develop effective principles for joint working as part of that partnership working.

The **COMPACT** will help establish the key principles that should form a solid foundation for partnership working. In turn, successful partnerships will benefit the residents of Wigan Borough.



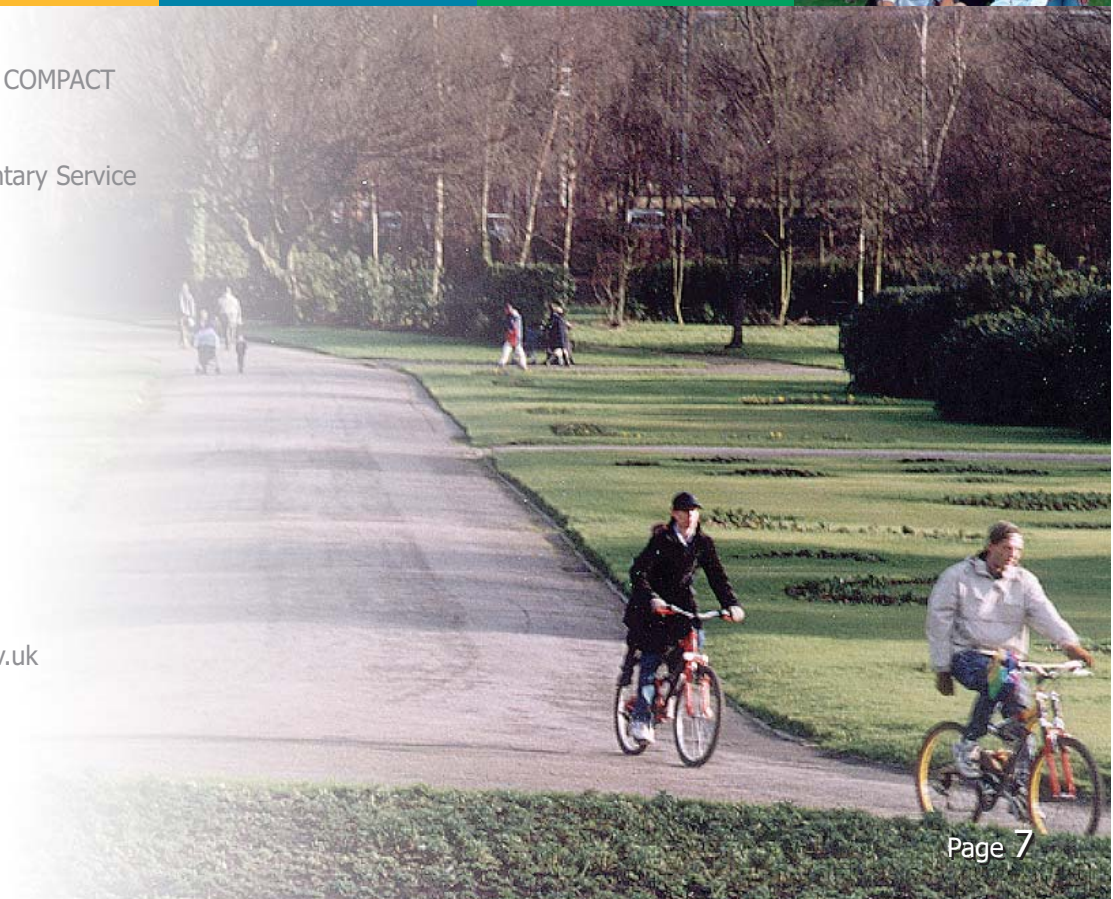
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The **COMPACT** is not a document but a way of working. It will therefore be implemented not as an "add on", but as the following four strands of activity are delivered according to its standards.

## Information

1. Existing information sharing systems deliver, and are monitored and reviewed, according to the spirit of the **COMPACT**, and to ensure that what needs to be shared is shared, and what doesn't isn't!
2. Reviews ensure that information to be shared is shared within an appropriate time scale, using clear language and fit for the purpose intended.

## Accountability

1. Partnerships and their constituent members are encouraged to promote the standards set out in local protocols.
2. Groups ensure that they serve and represent their constituencies.

3. Minority interests are represented and taken account of.

## Learning from action

1. Work and training programmes that can be shared between agencies are identified.
2. Opportunities for training and learning are published and promoted.
3. The attainment of appropriate quality standards is actively encouraged.
4. The **COMPACT** is reviewed.

## Resources

1. Grant aid systems across all partnerships are reviewed and monitored – any review to be conducted according to the standards set out in the **COMPACT**.
2. Best practice in procurement will be followed by all parties, and will be monitored and reviewed in the light of the **COMPACT**.
3. Transparency and fairness around allocation of resources will be maintained.

- Successful partnerships are based on the principles of equal rights and equal responsibilities.
- All partners are committed to equality of opportunity for all people, regardless of race, age, disability, gender, class, sexual orientation or religion.
- The voluntary sector has a responsibility and entitlement to campaign and act as advocate, within the law. The public sector has a duty to ensure services are provided that are effective and help to meet the needs of local people – in accordance with the principles of Best Value.
- All partners are accountable for their actions. All actions must work to the core principles of fairness, integrity, objectivity, openness, honesty and leadership.
- Effective partnership requires communication and collaboration between

all levels of the voluntary, public and private sectors. This will be achieved through more effective sharing of information and through learning from action.

- All partners will recognise the added value that other sectors can bring: volunteer time, officer support and indirect support through resources from the public and private sectors.
- An independent and diverse voluntary/community sector is fundamental to the well-being of a democratic society.

## Standards - Voluntary and Community Sector



The voluntary / community sector recognises the responsibility it has to residents of Wigan Borough and others who may come into contact with it. It undertakes to...

1. Actively work with the public sector on the development of strategies and plans – supporting and enabling local involvement wherever possible;
2. Endeavour to consult service users, carers, volunteers and members. Accurately communicate the views put to them in the course of a consultation carried out on behalf of the public or private sector, or when presenting a case to the public or private sector;
3. Observe the appropriate guidance from the Charity Commission, including that on political activities and campaigning;

4. Develop quality standards that are relevant and appropriate to each group. Maintain high standards of governance, conduct and openness;
5. Meet legal, reporting and accountability obligations to funders and service users;
6. Participate in effective working relationships within the voluntary sector and between the voluntary sector and public and private sectors;
7. Implement policies that promote best practice and equal rights in activities, employment, involvement of volunteers and service provision;
8. Campaign to improve practice, policy and services.

## Standards - Public Sector



The public sector recognises and values the contribution that the voluntary / community sector and other partners make to the well-being of society. The public sector wants this to continue and throughout their work will...

1. actively encourage the participation of the voluntary/community sector and other partners in the development of policy and strategic documents;
2. consult and involve the voluntary/community sector on issues that are likely to effect it and involve the sector in the planning of service provision in Wigan;
3. respect and value the campaigning role of the voluntary sector, acknowledging that this may conflict with other partners' plans and decisions;
4. develop and maintain quality standards in partnership working and maintain high

standards of governance, conduct and openness;

5. establish a co-ordinated and consistent approach to funding the voluntary/ community sector within Wigan Borough;
6. participate in effective working relationships within the voluntary/ community sector and between the voluntary sector and public and private sectors;
7. implement policies that promote best practice and equal rights in activities, employment, involvement of volunteers and service provision;
8. seek to ensure continuing improvement in services through the use of performance management systems.