



The Compact also makes provision for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Compact. It sets out procedures for mediating disagreements. Finally, the document emphasises the commitment of both the statutory and voluntary & community sectors to working within the spirit of the Compact for the benefit of the people of Devon.

The Hub is inviting all relevant organisations to become signatories and a form is provided for that purpose at the end of the full document.

The full Compact for Devon and the accompanying Codes of Practice are available on our website www.dacvs.org.uk

You can contact us through the Compact Hub administrator at:

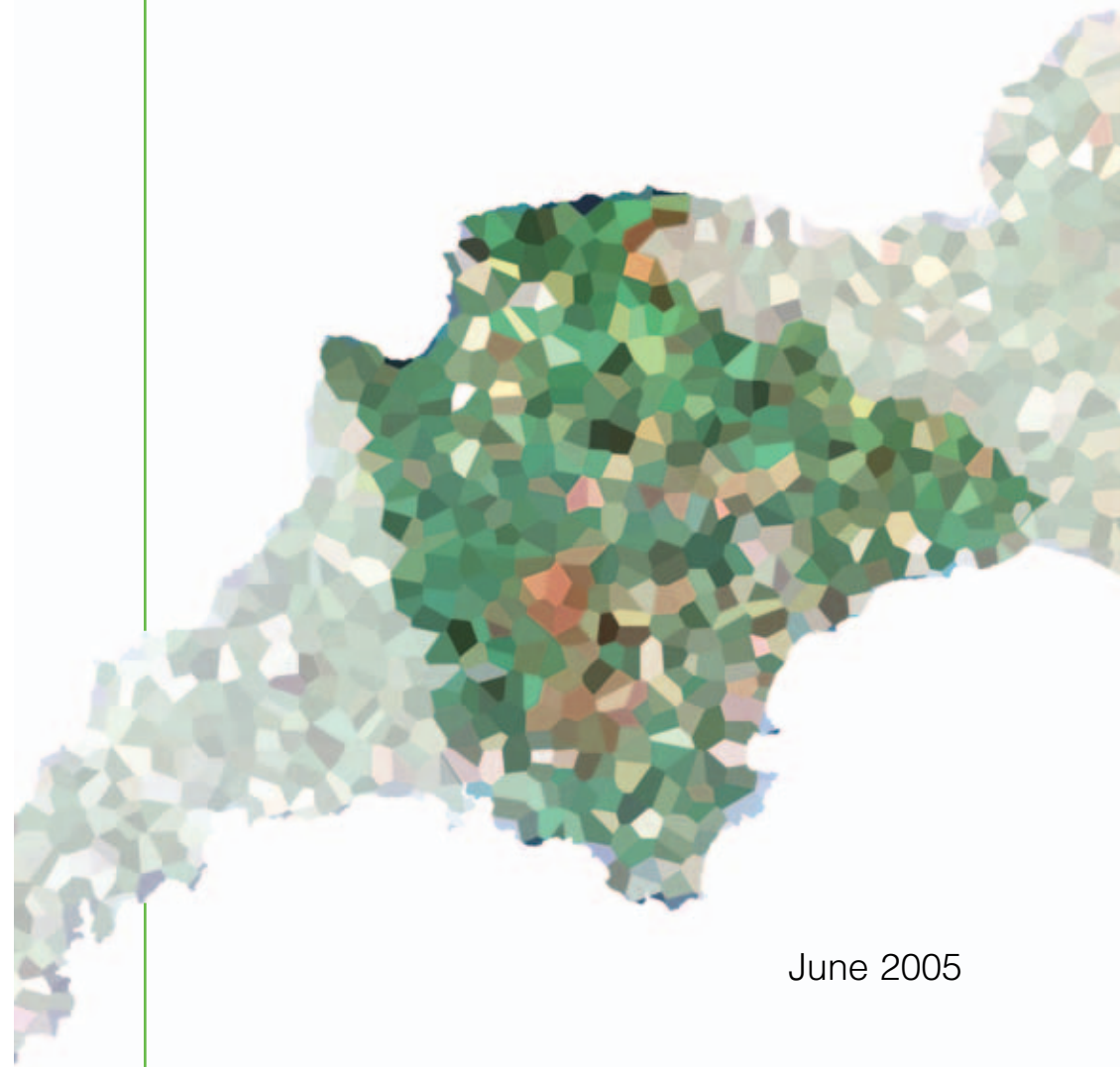
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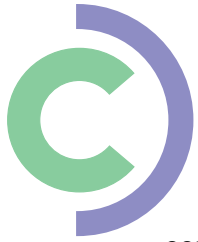


A Compact for Devon

Summary



June 2005



The Compact for Devon is a practical agreement for improving relationships and working practices between organisations in the statutory sector and those in the voluntary & community sector. It complies with government requirements for statutory organisations to develop a local compact as part of the national compact. The Compact is not a legal contract but a mutual agreement between the signatories to agree a set of principles and working practices.

This Compact was drawn up by a group of representatives from both sectors known as the 'Devon Hub', with widespread consultation. It is supplemented by a range of codes of good practice on key issues.

The statutory sector and the voluntary & community sectors are both essential to the wellbeing of our communities and need to work together with mutual respect and understanding to ensure maximum community benefit.

The advantages of having a Compact:

For the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)	For the Statutory Sector
It enhances their role and influence	It enables them to better meet community needs
It increases knowledge of the VCS within the statutory sector	It improves access to resources unique to the VCS
It allows the VCS to participate in strategic planning	It enables better informed strategic planning
It gives consistency to relationships	It helps to provide quality assurance of services
It regulates the VCS involvement in consultation	It supports accountability for service delivery, which takes place through service level agreements
It sets out an agreed framework for working together and for dispute mediation	It sets out an agreed framework for working together and for dispute mediation

The Compact sets out the shared values to which both sectors will adhere. It lays out the joint and separate undertakings which will underpin joint working. These appear below in summary form.

Together, Voluntary and Community Sector and Statutory Sector Partners will:

- Work in partnership to achieve more than could be achieved separately
- Improve people's understanding that the VCS and statutory sectors have different but complementary roles and responsibilities
- Make joint funding bids when appropriate
- Adhere to the jointly developed Codes of Good Practice on Equality & Diversity, Volunteering, Funding, Consultation, Partnership and Community Groups
- Identify training and support needs which will be required to ensure effective participation in the Compact
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Compact and review it regularly

Statutory Sector Partners will:

- Support the independence of the VCS
- Work to improve the sustainability of good quality Voluntary and Community Organisations
- Recognise the value of the VCS in service delivery for its responsiveness, innovation and flexibility
- Value voluntary & community organisations which work to quality assurance systems and are committed to developing effective services
- Provide nominated officers for the Devon Hub

Voluntary and Community Sector Partners will:

- Take account of the responsibilities and accountabilities of statutory agencies and their duty to work within available resources
- Encourage the participation of the VCS in consultation, and use their representative role effectively
- Seek to ensure that service users and volunteers are involved in consultation exercises
- Develop high quality policies and practices, including quality assurance systems
- Promote voluntary activity to the whole community
- Provide nominated officers for the Devon Hub, through infrastructure bodies