



# Your Guide

Surrey Compact  
builds relationships  
between the voluntary,  
community and faith  
sector and public  
authorities in Surrey

Working together for Surrey  
[www.surreycompact.org](http://www.surreycompact.org)

## Why the Surrey Compact matters

A Compact is an agreement that builds relationships that change how partners behave, engage and work together at all levels.

The Surrey Compact is about promoting understanding and co-operation between planners and providers of local services in the statutory and voluntary sector. As such its principles need to inform working practice throughout these organisations.

The Surrey Compact is the foundation of good working relationships between the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) and other partners in the public sector, underpinning grant, contract and other partnership and collaborative working arrangements.

The Surrey Compact also ensures that the importance of the volunteering contribution to the local economy is recognised by all organisations in Surrey.

### **Voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) organisations will**

- Have responsibility for responding to relevant and timely consultations.
- Aim to provide a coordinated and where possible, collective voice for the sector.
- Assume that in their dealings with statutory partners that they are equal partners.

## Key Compact principles

- Voluntary action is an essential component of a democratic society.
- In the development and delivery of public policy and services, the statutory sector and the VCFS have distinct but complementary roles.
- There is added value in working in partnership towards common objectives. Meaningful consultation builds relationships, improves policy development and enhances design and delivery of services.
- The statutory sector and the VCFS have different forms of accountability and are answerable to different stakeholders, but common to both is the need for integrity, objectivity and accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

- The statutory sector plays a significant role, among other things, as a funder of some VCFS organisations. Nevertheless, funding should not be the dominant factor in the balance of relationships.

## How we work

### **Challenge and accountability**

The Surrey Compact Custodian Group acts as a forum where key issues can be discussed, problems can be shared and resolved and recommendations made for changes of approach. This group meets regularly and shares best practice between organisations across the county.

The strength of the Compact lies in its Codes of Practice that set out in more detail how aspects of the relationship are to be conducted.

### **Compact Codes cover:**

- Implementing responsible and fair funding arrangements.
- Promoting volunteering.
- Facilitating communication, consultation and engagement.
- Implementing and promoting equality and diversity.
- Working with Community Groups.
- Resolving disputes positively.

### **Funding, commissioning and procurement**

The Surrey Compact has championed the role of the VCFS in public service delivery and aims to ensure that local groups can compete for sustainable service contracts on an equal basis. Practical support is available from

the statutory sector to ensure effective VCFS participation where groups want to enter the competitive market or make a bid for grant aid.

### **Public sector bodies will**

- Use Compact principles to maximise effectiveness in their working relationship with the VCFS.
- Provide support by implementing best practice.
- Enable wide and appropriate consultation about service provision and service development.

### **Get in touch**

Surrey Compact website:

[www.surreycompact.org](http://www.surreycompact.org)

National web information:

[www.thecompact.org.uk](http://www.thecompact.org.uk)