

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMPACT

Final Revision following consultation
February 2007



Produced by a working group of the local authorities and voluntary sector lead agencies in Cambridgeshire that are developing and promoting the Cambridgeshire Compact. Membership includes:-

Cambridge CVS, Hunts Forum, Fenland CVS, Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire, Young Lives, Cambridgeshire ACRE, Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC), The Social Enterprise People, & Jobcentre Plus.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMPACT

FOREWORD

WHAT IS COMPACT?

A Compact is a partnership agreement between statutory bodies and the voluntary and community sector designed to improve our relationships and provide a framework within which we can understand what to expect from each other.

All statutory groups and organisations including Parish Councils, and voluntary and community groups who support Compact values and principles can join in a Compact.

What are the benefits of a Compact?

Where it works well, a COMPACT changes the culture and behaviour of the partner organisations, by:

- giving consistency to the relationship, making it less dependent on particular individuals
- working together to solve problems and tackle the priorities of the local community
- providing clearer and fairer funding processes
- making sure voluntary and community organisations are given the chance to express their views and to see how these are taken into account
- understanding each other's priorities and constraints
- providing a framework to discuss differences and sort out disagreements in a constructive way
- supporting the development of the voluntary and community sector's capacity so that groups can do more to meet both their aims and those of their statutory partners, thereby enhancing their contribution to the local community.

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Why ONE COMPACT for Cambridgeshire?

Over recent years District Councils, Primary Care Trusts and Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Organisations have been working together to produce and consult on Compacts for individual districts in Cambridgeshire, including Peterborough, which has its own Compact.

This has contributed to a better mutual understanding, and these benefits will be greatly increased by one single statement of joint Compact principles and undertakings for the whole of Cambridgeshire because:

- Areas where Compacts are still in preparation will be able to adopt an existing framework.
- Many more organisations – statutory and voluntary, regional, county and local – will be able to sign up and adopt better partnership working.
- There will be improved potential for joined-up, county-wide responses to issues such as funding, commissioning, community development, consultation and information exchange.
- All participants will benefit from the consistency of a county-wide approach.
- A joint overarching commitment does not replace and can include specific district statements and issues.
- One county-wide Compact will help the Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement (see glossary) to develop effective joint working.

This document will not just be a piece of paper. It is intended to:

- set a framework for effective consultation, representation and partnership working (including an agreement on definitions, shared values and joint and separate undertakings).
- act as a reference document and as a process for monitoring and evaluating the quality of relationships and partnerships between the voluntary and statutory sectors working at all levels in Cambridgeshire (see section 5).

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1.0 OUR SHARED Vision and Values

All partners to the Cambridgeshire Compact:

- 1.1 Share the common objective of working for the benefit of the communities of Cambridgeshire, and recognise that there is added value in working in partnership towards common aims and objectives.
- 1.2 Recognise that voluntary and community action is an essential component of democratic society, and that an independent and diverse voluntary and community sector is fundamental to the well being of society.
- 1.3 Recognise the diversity of size, resources, membership and working practices among the Voluntary and Community Sector, and the strength that this diversity brings.
- 1.4 Value the distinct but complementary roles undertaken by the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Statutory Authorities.
- 1.5 Work together within the framework of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Local Strategic Partnerships and the Local Area Agreement seeking to provide a co-ordinated cross-sector response to the key issues facing localities and communities in Cambridgeshire.
- 1.6 Represent information openly and honestly, act with integrity, be accountable for actions, respect confidentiality and declare relevant interests where required.
- 1.7 Have a commitment to promoting and striving for equality of opportunity, in all aspects of our work, for all people, regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, race, religion/faith (the six strands of diversity determined by Equality Standard Act 2006 and Equality Standard framework for local government).



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2.0 SHARED Commitments to the Cambridgeshire Compact

Together the Voluntary and Statutory Sectors in Cambridgeshire will:

- 2.1 Work to identify opportunities and resources to enhance the services available to the people of Cambridgeshire.
- 2.2 Commit to ensuring sustainability in the planning and provision of services and ensuring effective representation on strategic partnership groups.
- 2.3 Build the involvement and strengthen representation of voluntary sector organisations through the Cambridgeshire Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium (see Glossary).
- 2.4 Specifically recognise the important role and contribution of the smaller VCS groups that do not receive funding from statutory groups and ensure that they are included in the ongoing Compact development process.
- 2.5 Work with the Cambridgeshire Compact Development Group (see glossary) to develop Codes of Practice on 'Funding & Procurement' 'Consultation and Representation' and 'working with small community groups'.
- 2.6 Develop an ethos that encourages the resolution of conflict, and specifically through the Compact Development Group to develop a process for resolving breakdowns in communication and negotiation (see section 6).
- 2.7 Work together to agree relevant 'sector specific' quality standards for service delivery across different sectors and acknowledge that the training and monitoring necessary for this is part of any funding and service delivery agreement.
- 2.8 Work towards building/establishing relationships in which all partners are equally important. This involves a mutual understanding of roles and appreciation of the constraints facing both the VCS and the Statutory Sector.
- 2.9 Recognise the importance of having strong and effective infrastructure bodies in the voluntary sector (both generalist, i.e. CVS's, Volunteer Centres, and specialist i.e. Young Lives, ACRE, Ethnic Community Forums etc) enabling the development and representation of the voluntary and community sector and partnership working.
- 2.10 Recognise the decision-making role of elected Members / Management Boards of all Cambridgeshire Local Authorities and their responsibility to provide community leadership including balancing the needs of everyone in the County when allocating resources.

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3.0 CAMBRIDGESHIRE Statutory Sector Undertakings

The statutory organisations will:

- 3.1 Develop a long-term policy and strategy for support and investment in Voluntary and Community Sector activity in Cambridgeshire including Compact compliance.
- 3.2 Work towards a situation in which statutory contracts and service agreements are a minimum of three years duration and where a minimum of 12 weeks notice is given in respect of decisions to change or terminate grant or contract conditions (or less by mutual agreement).
- 3.3 Undertake appropriate consultation with the voluntary sector to ensure that as commissioners we are working towards consistency in commissioning, funding and monitoring practice.
- 3.4 Provide for quality in consulting the voluntary and community sector and others, including providing for a 12 weeks minimum consultation period wherever possible.
- 3.5 Recognise that VCS organisations have the right and duty to determine and manage their own affairs in the best interests of their constituencies and beneficiaries.
- 3.6 Recognise the entitlement of voluntary and community groups to campaign within the law in order to advance their aims and objectives, and to comment on and challenge public sector policy, irrespective of any funding relationship that might exist.
- 3.7 Recognise the breadth of knowledge and ideas within the Voluntary and Community Sector and agree to value and utilise these resources when developing policy, strategy and service delivery.

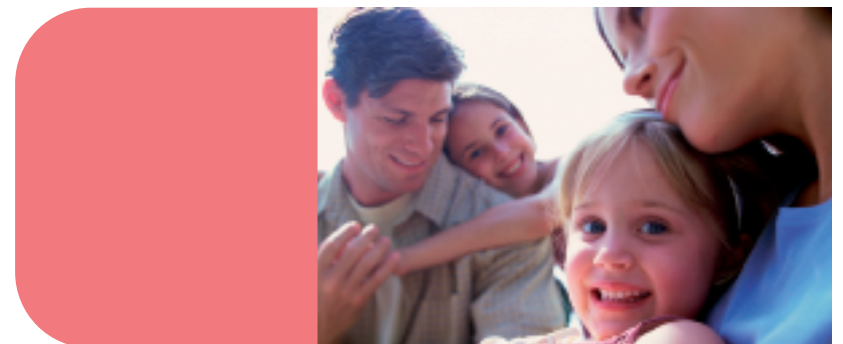


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4.0 VOLUNTARY and Community Sector Undertakings

The voluntary organisations will:

- 4.1 Recognise the need for value for money and accountability in the spending of public funds and
 - Develop and apply appropriate quality standards in management, governance and service delivery.
 - be prepared to adopt, as agreed and appropriate, procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of their services.
- 4.2 Involve users to the greatest possible extent in the development and management of their services.
- 4.3 Endeavour to make information about their services available to their communities (including in accessible formats).



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5.0 How will we know if the Compact is working?

- 5.1 The CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMPACT DEVELOPMENT GROUP will develop relevant indicators to show whether 'a compact way of working' is being adopted.
- 5.2 An Action plan will be drawn up to include arrangements for an annual review and annual work programme, including the adoption and implementation of Codes of Practice.
- 5.3 A Cambridgeshire-wide Annual Report will update all partners on progress and achievement.
- 5.4 All partners are committed to the implementation of the Compact within their organisation; in addition, within local authorities one councillor should be nominated to lead on Compact issues, and within other lead agencies this should be a member of the board or management committee.
- 5.5 The administration of the Cambridgeshire Compact Development Group will be serviced by the County Council. Activity will be taken forward through this group and if additional resources are required the group will work together to secure these.



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6.0 Dealing with disagreements

6.1 The mark of a good Compact is what happens when things go wrong.

It is hoped that the principles set out in this document will enable partners to resolve disagreements at source. However in the event of a disagreement in which the 'compact way of working' is at issue, it is important for all partners to have access to a process set up to deal with disagreements.

6.2 Unresolved Compact breaches will be reported to the Cambridgeshire Compact Development Group and the 'Positive Disputes Resolution Process' (available on request) will be applied.

6.3 If required, breaches and disagreements can be reported to the national Compact Advocacy Scheme, which also provides The Compact Mediation Scheme - which offers mediation to resolve disputes between government or local public bodies and voluntary organisations. The scheme is subsidised by the Home Office and is run by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution.



THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMPACT

CONTACTS

For information on the Compact in Cambridgeshire please contact
Community Development, Cambridgeshire County Council on **01223 717031**
stephen.vartoukian@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Office of Children's and Young Peoples Services, Cambridgeshire County Council
Development Manager, Planning, Performance and Partnership.
denise.revens@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

And / or your local Council for Voluntary Service

More on compact at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Supporters of the Cambridgeshire Compact are:

- Cambridge CVS
- Hunts Forum
- Fenland CVS
- Cambridgeshire Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium
- Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire
- Young Lives
- Cambridgeshire ACRE
- Cambridgeshire County Council



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- Huntingdonshire District Council
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Cambridge City Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Fenland District Council
- Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC)
- The Social Enterprise People
- Jobcentre Plus
- Cambridgeshire Together (LAA)
- Huntingdonshire Local Strategic Partnership
- Cambridgeshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- Fenland Strategic Partnership
- South Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership
- East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership
- Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership



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GLOSSARY

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Compact

A Compact is an agreement between statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector in a specific geographical area to improve their relationship for mutual advantage. By clarifying and improving relationships a Compact can help both sectors work better together for the communities they serve.

Compact Plus

A short set of commitments that public sector bodies and VCS organisations can opt into, also a compact Champion who would support organisations in realising those commitments and adjudicate on disagreements. The appointment of a Compact Commissioner is underway with an announcement expected shortly. A priority for the Commissioner is to get a "Compact Plus" standard (a set of core compact commitments) in place, with an accreditation scheme and a kite mark.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMPACT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

A working group of the County and District councils and voluntary sector lead agencies in Cambridgeshire that are developing and promoting the Cambridgeshire Compact. Membership includes Cambridge CVS, Hunts Forum, Fenland CVS, Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire, Young Lives, Cambridgeshire Acre, Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust, CPALC, The Social Enterprise People, & Jobcentre Plus.

Voluntary and Community Sector / VCS

Voluntary and community activity is an essential part of an active and vibrant civil society, contributing to the social, cultural, political and economic life of the country in a variety of ways, for example by:

- Bringing people together and enabling them to participate in the life of their community
- Giving voice to their concerns and enabling their voices to be heard

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- Promoting more responsive public services, whether by providing services directly or by advocating on behalf of service users, individually and collectively
- Contributing to the social economy and to economic development.

The voluntary and community sector has grown considerably in the last ten years. With a total income of £20.8 billion and an operating expenditure of £20.4 billion; a workforce comprising of 569,000 paid employees; and a contribution of £7.2 billion to UKGDP. (Figures taken from NCVO "Independence, diversity, voice – a Manifesto for voluntary action")

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium (CVSIC)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium is a non-constituted body made up of not-for-profit infrastructure organisations that service voluntary and community groups in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Its aim is to sustain and improve the overall provision of infrastructure support to meet the diverse needs of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and enable effective mechanisms for the delivery of generic and specialist infrastructure services.

Social enterprise

The DTI definition reads: "A social enterprise is a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners".

Cambridgeshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CCYPSP)

The CCYPSP brings together partners (including the county, district councils, PCT, police, VCS, health, LSC, Jobcentre plus, schools, probation, Local Safeguarding Children's Board) to work together to improve outcomes for children and young people. The Children and Young People's Plan – the Big Plan – identifies the priorities and targets the partnership is working to achieve by 2009. A subset of these targets forms the Children and Young People's block of the Local Area Agreement.

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Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP)

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are non-statutory partnerships that:

- Bring together at a local level the public, private, business, community and voluntary sectors
- Brings together senior representatives from member organisations
- Promote integrated approach to local service delivery

The LSPs are expected to develop Community Strategies (to be developed into Sustainable Community Strategies during 2007) that identify the needs of local communities; set the vision and priorities for action for the local area; and promote the economic, social and environmental well being of the local area. In Cambridgeshire there are five LSPs based on district council boundaries. There is no countywide LSP.

Local Area Agreement (LAA)

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three-year agreement between Government, local authorities and other partner organisations across sectors (public, private, and voluntary and community sectors) and working through the LSPs. It is an initiative designed to enable local authorities and their partners to deliver national outcomes in a way that reflects local priorities.

The local authority (County Council in two tier areas) holds overall responsibility for driving the LAA. Local Area Agreements will influence how funding streams are allocated by simplifying (pooling and/or aligning) the number of funding streams received from central government.

LAAs are outcome based and set around four main blocks:

- Children and Young People (CYP)
- Safer and Stronger Communities (SSC)
- Healthy Communities and Older People (HCOP)
- Economic Development and Enterprise (EDE)

The Cambridgeshire LAA has a vision based on Improving Quality of Life in Cambridgeshire
'...We aim to continue to work together ...to enable Cambridgeshire to be a prosperous, inclusive, healthy and safe area where growth is sustainably managed for the benefit of current and future residents; where children and young people have the best possible start in life; where quality services enable all members of our communities to thrive; and where quality of life will improve along with the quality of the county's environment...'

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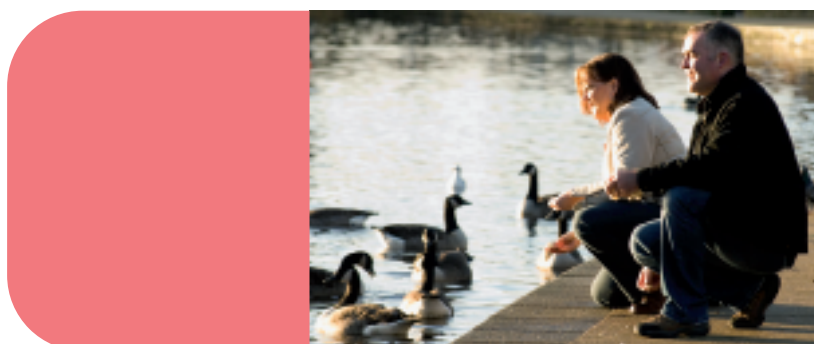
We will achieve this vision by continuing our commitment to:

- Recognising geographical, social and economic differences within the County and responding appropriately to challenges and needs;
- Working in partnership at the local, sub regional and regional level;
- Empowering our local communities to engage in shaping service delivery;
- Focusing on the service user;
- Celebrating Cambridgeshire's diversity by promoting social inclusion, health and healthy lifestyles;
- Recognising and supporting the role of the voluntary sector in service delivery and community and service user involvement

Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA)

The Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) is an agreement between County Council and partner agencies with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to implement stretching targets in priority areas. In return DCLG assists the authorities with pump priming monies and, on achieving the targets, reward monies.

DCLG agreed to include Cambridgeshire in the second pilot of **LAA**s to start in April 2006 (due to end in 2009). The final **LPSA** agreement was signed off in July 2005 and fully integrated into the LAA document. The **LPSA** is due to end in March 2007 and could potentially attract £12m additional funding to Cambridgeshire if all targets are achieved.



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For information on the Compact in Cambridgeshire please contact
Community Development, Cambridgeshire County Council on 01223 717031
or email stephen.vartoukian@cambrdgeshire.gov.uk