



Action!



Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION

November 2008

Voluntary and Community Action

'Making the Compact a Reality' is the theme for Compact Week 2008, which takes place from **1 to 8 November**. It is the perfect time to raise awareness of the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact and encourage more organisations to sign up!

This national awareness week aims to promote the Compact, the ten-year-old agreement setting out shared commitments and guidelines for working between government and the voluntary and community sector.

Compact Week includes a series of co-ordinated activities, events and media activity across England, with the aim of publicising the Compact as well as encouraging greater understanding and better implementation.

The week gives us an ideal opportunity to help raise your knowledge and understanding of our Local Compact.

For more information about Compact Week visit: www.thecompact.org.uk/compactweek

**Compact
Week 2008**

Making the Compact a Reality!

Three Simple Steps

1. Obtain the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact and the Codes of Practice
2. Brief key decision-makers and get your organisation signed up to the Compact
3. Embed the principles into your policies and procedures

Don't Know What the Compact Is?

The National Compact was launched in 1998. Over 25,000 organisations were consulted and the launch attracted attention from over 25 nations worldwide. Local Compact partnerships can now be found in 99 per cent of local authority areas and the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact was agreed in 2002.

The Bedfordshire and Luton Compact sets out a series of principles and undertakings which should underpin the relationship between the voluntary and community and statutory sectors and shows their commitment to:

- ◆ Working in partnership for the improved quality of life
- ◆ Encourage and support voluntary and community activity
- ◆ Jointly influence policy and planning, where appropriate

As a Local Compact partner we have signed the agreement to follow the principles set out in the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact and it's four Codes of Practice, just as many voluntary and community organisations have done alongside local statutory bodies, and encourage you to do the same. For further information please visit: www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk

Bedfordshire and Luton COMPACT

Getting it Right Together

What Can Our Local Compact Do For You?

The Bedfordshire and Luton Compact contains four Codes of Practice, which provide more detail on how the voluntary and community sector and statutory partners should interact with each other as follows:

The Funding and Procurement Code - setting out the funding relationship between statutory and voluntary and community partners. This Code was updated in July 2008 to reflect the recent changes to how statutory bodies provide support, particularly regarding tendering and procurement of services.

The Equality and Diversity Code - setting out how all partners should work towards the promotion of equality, diversity, social inclusion, and community cohesion.

The Consultation and Partnership Code - promoting and improving awareness and understanding between sectors on consultation and how we should work in partnership.

The Volunteering Code - outlining how we should all raise the profile of, and remove the barriers to, more people volunteering, and how existing volunteers should be supported.

These Codes of Practice are supported by **Monitoring and Mediation Policies**.

Let's Get it Right Together!

The primary purpose of our local **Compact Development Group** is to encourage good practice and promote positive relationships between voluntary and community organisations and the statutory sector in Bedfordshire and Luton, within the spirit of the Compact framework.

The new **Central Bedfordshire** Council has agreed to adopt the **Bedfordshire and Luton Compact**. Richard Ellis, Director of Business Transformation for Central Bedfordshire recognises the value of voluntary and community organisations contribution in the delivery of high quality services across all sectors of the communities. He said: "The Compact builds on these good relationships and will continue with the development of genuine

working partnerships that deliver our joint priorities in Central Bedfordshire".

The Compact and the Codes of Practice are living documents and from time to time need updating. Following on from the update of the Funding and Procurement Code, a review and update of the **Equality and Diversity Code** and the **Consultation and Partnership Code** is to begin soon.

Representatives from both the voluntary and community sector and the statutory sector are needed to help refresh the two Codes. Can you help? If your organisation would like to become involved contact the **Bedfordshire and Luton Compact Secretariat** on 01234 354366 or at compact@norhtbedscvs.org.uk

Like More Information?

Local points of information and contact details as follows:

Helen Nottingham, Partnerships Officer at Voluntary and Community Action on 01525 850559 or email helen@action-southbeds.org.uk

Download copies of the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact from www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk/

General information can be obtained from www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/action%2dsouthbeds/

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