

# Bedfordshire and Luton Compact Development Group

Membership and representation of the Compact Development Group stretches across the diverse range of voluntary, community and statutory sector organisations. The Group meets regularly to discuss issues raised through the implementation of **The Compact** and to promote its use throughout Bedfordshire and Luton. If you would like to get involved or find out more, please contact the Compact Secretariat.

This publication is available in other formats on request to the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact Secretariat

## Get your copy

You can download a copy of the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact and find out how to sign up to the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact by visiting:

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

or you can request a copy of the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact and other information from:

**Bedfordshire and Luton  
Compact Secretariat**  
c/o Community and Voluntary Service  
43 Bromham Road  
Bedford  
MK40 2AA

**Tel: 01234 354366**

**Email: [compact@yourcvs.org](mailto:compact@yourcvs.org)**

# The Compact

## Who is it for?

All Voluntary Organisations  
and Community Groups

All Local Statutory  
Organisations such as:

- » Local Authorities
- » Health Trusts and GP Practices
- » Police
- » Fire and Rescue Service
- » Ambulance Service

All Partnership Boards

All Other Local Public Bodies

## It's for YOU!

Bedfordshire & Luton  
**Compact**  
working together better together

**The Compact on Relations  
between the Public Sector  
and the Voluntary  
and Community Sector,  
for the Benefit of  
Communities and Citizens in  
Bedfordshire and Luton**

# The Compact

Only by working in partnership can local public bodies and the voluntary and community sector make a real difference to local communities

The Bedfordshire and Luton Compact sets out the principles of how the two sectors should work together

The Bedfordshire and Luton Compact is a locally-agreed document, based on the national Compact between Government and the voluntary and community sector

## What's it for?

It gives a sound basis for both sectors to do things together which make a positive difference

It sets out guidelines for how both parties should work together, consult and make decisions

It recognises and promotes shared values, principles and commitments

## What's in it for you?

### Public Bodies

- » A thriving voluntary and community sector helps boost service quality and inspection ratings
- » An improved relationship with a key partner that can help you to work and deliver services differently and more effectively
- » Greater community engagement and involvement in achieving strategic objectives and securing external resources

### Voluntary and Community Sector

Local public bodies who:

- » support your work
- » value the difference you make in the local area
- » recognise and use your expertise
- » understand how you work

## Has your organisation signed up?

Every organisation that signs up to the Bedfordshire and Luton Compact, is making a public pledge to conduct themselves within the guidelines and principles set out in the document. The more organisations that sign up, the stronger **The Compact** will be.

## What does it cover?

The Bedfordshire and Luton Compact sets out a series of shared principles and commitments:

### SHARED PRINCIPLES

**Respect:** Differences between the public and voluntary and community sectors are mutually understood, acknowledged and respected

**Honesty:** Open communication, transparency and integrity

**Independence:** The independence of voluntary and community organisations in fulfilling their mission is recognised and supported. This includes their right within the law to campaign, to comment on and to challenge public sector policy (whatever funding or other relationship may exist with the public sector) and to determine and manage their own affairs

**Citizen empowerment:** Valuing a thriving civil society that is built around communities and people, meeting their needs and reflecting their choices

**Volunteering:** The energy and commitment of people giving their time for the public good contributes to a vibrant society, and should be recognised and appreciated

### COMMITMENTS

#### Advancing equality and diversity:

This section recognises the vital role that the voluntary and community sector plays in helping to create a more equal and fair society and sets out commitments that will help both sectors work together to achieve their equality goals and promote social and community cohesion

#### Involvement in policy development:

This section sets out how to involve and consult with the voluntary and community sector to help the public sector develop policies that meet the needs of local people and communities

**Allocating resources:** This section sets out commitments on funding, ranging from the planning and designing of services, to making decisions and agreeing delivery and payment terms. It also sets out how a financial relationship should be ended

**Get your copy of The Compact to find out more!**