

# Compact Success Stories

# Compact VOICE

Making the Compact work for you

## Funding

My organisation struggled for years with one year contracts. We would employ staff without knowing what would happen come Christmas. What we've been successful in doing, and we've actually *used the Compact to make this happen*, is that we've got statutory partners to agree to give us three year contracts. This has made our organisation more sustainable.  
**Chief Executive, national social care organisation**



The key things put into place by our city council are full cost recovery and three year funding. These things came about directly because of the Compact and the agreements contained within it. *I believe that three year funding and full cost recovery would not be on the agenda if it hadn't been for the Compact.*

**Policy Officer, national homelessness charity**

## Partnership Working

*Our organisation received £15,000 back from an executive agency that had breached their Local Compact.* We were really pleased that we used the Compact because actually it meant that we could continue our relationship. Using the Compact meant that we had a framework within which we could sort out the disagreement and it didn't become personal.

**Director, local education charity**

### The Compact

The Compact is an agreement between public bodies and the Voluntary and Community Sector about how to work better together, creating mutual benefits which will help citizens and communities.

### National and local Compacts

While this has been prepared using the national Compact and Codes, most local codes share many similar themes and commitments. Therefore this is a good reference point for using your local Compact.

## Over-burdensome Monitoring

An NDPB invited organisations to apply for grants to take their programme forward and...their grant conditions were absolutely appalling...So I went through it and told them, clause by clause, why it was not good practice, referring to the Compact. I also explained the effect it would have on the organisations...and *now they have completely reviewed all their grant conditions.*

**Chief executive, local health charity**

## Consultation

Three advocacy organisations in Buckinghamshire had 3-year Service Level Agreements and had been notified of a two percent uplift in their funding. However, they received a letter from the council informing them that their funding would be cut by £30,000 with no notice or consultation. After challenging the council on Compact grounds, *the council announced that there would be no funding cuts to their budget and no future cuts without proper consultation.*

**Compact Advocacy evidence**



## Avoiding Conflicts

You don't need to get to the breach stage. We have a very close working relationship with a particular department in the city council that funds a lot of the sector in my area, and they put out a consultation proposing a complete change in the way they're going to be working. The consultation period wasn't 12 weeks. *So we just rang up and said actually that's not Compact compliant. "Oh, no you're right, sorry, we'll extend it" they said.* The Compact also pushed boundaries around full cost recovery and three year funding

**Policy Director, national network on sexual health services.**

## Variable Experience

We're a national charity. Even just across England, there are 150 different local authorities and we try to deal with each with different interpretations of exactly what it means to engage properly with the third sector, which is a bit of a nightmare. *The Compact is an important means of standardising these interpretations.*

**Policy Director, national capacity building organisation**

These are just a few of the successes achieved through the Compact. For more information on how to get the most out of it:

Visit:

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

E-mail:

[compact@compactvoice.org.uk](mailto:compact@compactvoice.org.uk)

Call: 020 7520 2486

## Taking Responsibility for the Compact

**For the Compact to work we need you to use it**

We may be a small organisation but we've got 15 trustees. *They should be able to look at the Compact and see how it can work within the organisation. They can also take it forward.* The chair needs to ensure that the Compact is referred to so that the staff can go about delivering their work more effectively

**Director, local BME charity**