

COMPACT AT WORK



Carlisle: Signing up to a local Compact

Carlisle City Council wanted to sign up to the County-wide Cumbria Compact, to strengthen the good relationship they already had with the voluntary and community sector. Before they did so, the Council considered their compliance with the commitments outlined in the Cumbria Compact and identified areas for improvement by undertaking a self-assessment exercise.

Impact

The purpose of the Cumbria Compact is to provide a single document that governs the relationship between public sector bodies and the voluntary and community sector (VCS).

The Cumbria Compact was developed via a county-wide group, and prior to Carlisle City Council signing up to it, had already been signed up to by a range of partner agencies across the county.

The adoption of the Cumbria Compact by Carlisle City Council was initially considered by the Joint Management Team in December 2011.

Members and Officers were supportive of the Compact's aims, but wanted to give detailed consideration to Carlisle City Council's current compliance with the commitments outlined in the Compact prior to signing up to it.

In February and March 2012, a cross-party working group was convened. This group directed a self-assessment of Carlisle City Council's compliance with the Compact, utilising a self-assessment model devised by the Cumbria Compact Steering group.

This self-assessment process outlined each of the 54 commitments that the Cumbria Compact expects public

sector bodies to support, which are divided into 3 thematic areas. The self-assessment asked the Council to rate itself for compliance against these commitments on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.

This self-assessment was administered through the chief executive and Local Partnerships Teams, but drew on knowledge from officers across all Council directorates.

The results indicated that the Council was already broadly compliant with the commitments in the Cumbria Compact, and that signing up to it would be a positive way of supporting a strong, transparent relationship between the Council and the local VCS.

The report of the self-assessment exercise was presented to the Joint Management Team in April 2012. They requested that it be sent on to the chief executive with the recommendation that Carlisle City Council sign up to the Cumbria Compact and develop a formal action plan to increase the Council's level of compliance with the Compact commitments.

Carlisle City Council signed up to the Compact in July 2012.

Published:

November 2012

Theme:

Supporting public bodies

Compact name:

Cumbria Compact

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Compact Principles

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Summary

Before signing up to the Cumbria Compact, the Council undertook a self-assessment exercise.

The report established that the Council was rated as 'good, very good or excellent' in 36 of the 54 key commitments outlined in the Cumbria Compact - and 'fair' in the remaining 18. The Council was not assessed as 'poor' against any of the key commitments.

The 18 areas where the Council were rated 'fair' against the Compact's commitments were developed into a series of actions for improvement, and these were in turn put into a formal action plan.

The Cumbria Compact also provided a set of principles for the Council to follow, which they have adopted. These principles established a common framework for the Council to work to in their dealing with voluntary and community organisations. The principles have also highlighted areas of good practice within the Council, which can be shared across the organisation.

The Council is also working with Cumbria Voluntary Services to raise awareness of the Compact with councillors, officers and community engagement partners. This includes providing information at events and developing training for the Council's learning and development programme.

There are plans to update the Council's Procurement Strategy by April 2013 to include a section on the Compact and agreements with voluntary and community organisations.



Quote

"We are delighted to sign up to the Compact and demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to working with the voluntary and community sector"

Councillor Jessica Riddle, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Housing

Relevant Compact Principles

- Designing policies and services
- Delivering programmes and services

Related links

- [Cumbria CVS Compact information](#)
- [Carlisle City Council website](#)