

Arrangements in Other Local Authorities

Strategies and Compacts viewed were from a wide range of Councils and included Unitary Authorities. The date range was broad with some drafted in 2010 and the most recent strategy covering the period 2017-2020.

Compact	Strategy	Policy
Bexley	Bexley	-
East Riding	East Riding	-
Essex	Essex	-
Kent	Kent	-
Sandwell	Sandwell	-
Southwark	Southwark	-
Tower Hamlets	Tower Hamlets	-
Waltham Forest	Waltham Forest	-
-	Greenwich	-
-	-	Hampshire
-	Islington	-
-	Stevenage	-
Darlington	-	-
County Durham	-	-
Bournemouth	-	-
Bracknell	-	-
Bristol	-	-
Portsmouth	-	-
Cornwall	-	-
Derby City Council	-	-

The strategies and compacts did not relate to Health and Social Care alone. All were council wide and the majority being developed in Corporate Services with substantial input from the VCS as well as key partners, including the police, fire services and NHS.

In a couple of authorities, the final document was signed by Chief Executives of partner organisations to demonstrate a multi-agency approach. Others were signed by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders. All were based on shared values, understanding and mutual respect between the statutory sector and the voluntary and community sector (VCS), for the benefit of residents/communities. Several were aligned with Council priorities

All compacts commit both the statutory and the VCS to achieve principles. Although there were some small differences in the wording of the principles amongst the authorities, the context was similar. For example; Bexley Council's included:

1. A strong, diverse and independent voluntary and community sector
2. Effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services
3. Responsive and high-quality programmes and services
4. Clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services

To achieve the agreed principles, the Compacts included the requirement that the voluntary and statutory sectors make some commitments in their processes and practices, and in their thinking and behaviour.

Some examples of commitments for the statutory sector include:

- Respect and uphold the independence of Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCOs) to deliver their mission, including their right to campaign, regardless of any relationship, financial or otherwise, which may exist
- Ensure greater transparency by making data and information more accessible, helping VCOs to challenge existing provision of services, access new markets and hold the statutory sector to account
- Recognise that the VCS has a role to play in developing and shaping services and policy through co-design and co-production and provide opportunities for the VCS to do so
- Work to a published funding or commissioning framework that is corporately agreed across their organisation when working with voluntary and community sector organisations
- Encourage feedback from a range of sources on the effectiveness of the statutory sector's partnership with VCOs and how successful it has been in delivering their objectives. Consider placing this feedback in the public domain

Some examples of commitments for the voluntary sector include:

- Raise awareness of the impact that voluntary action and volunteers have on individuals, local communities and the wider VCS
- Be open to hearing about performance issues with your service and take appropriate action as early as possible
- Proactively engage in the commissioning process providing information and advice about communities and individuals
- Take active leadership in developing and shaping services and ensuring service users are involved in the co-production process

- When campaigning or advocating, ensure that robust evidence is provided, including information about the source and range of people and communities represented