

Next Steps

The purpose of this leaflet is to raise awareness of the Dover & District Compact. Whether you are from a local group or public body, please take the following steps:

- Download a copy of your Compact
- Get your organisation to sign up to the Compact.

The more organisations that sign up to the Compact, the stronger the relationship between local groups and public bodies will be.

Please see www.dover.gov.uk/compact for the latest information and download a signatory form.

For further information on the Compact, or to sign-up, please contact:

Voluntary and Community Sector:

CASE Kent,
1 Maison Dieu Road,
Dover,
Kent, CT16 1RW
Telephone: 01304 240090
E-mail: dover@casekent.org.uk

Statutory Sector:

Dover District Council, Leadership Support Team,
Tel: 01304 821199, E-mail: policy@dover.gov.uk

or

Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust, Claire Martin,
Tel: 01304 222212, E-mail: Claire.martin@ekcpct.nhs.uk

Compact
working together | better together

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Dover & District Compact Summary

Local groups and public bodies working together
to achieve more for the local community.

Joining:

- Successful Partnerships
- Consultation
- Thriving Communities
- Community Engagement
- Public Involvement
- Effective Funding
- Sharing Information
- Tackling Priorities

Download a copy of the full document from:
www.dover.gov.uk/compact



Background

The Compact is a Government-led initiative (www.thecompact.org.uk). Local Compacts are now in place across the country, following the introduction of the national Compact in 1998.

The Compact aims to improve relations between the statutory, voluntary and community sectors (VCS), for mutual advantage.

Launched in September 2005, the Dover & District Compact sets out how public bodies such as Dover District Council and the Primary Care Trust, and local voluntary and community groups will work together.

Your Compact is aligned to the Community Strategy, which seeks to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being within the Dover district and improve quality of life for everyone. For further information on this please see: www.dover.gov.uk/community_strategy



Principles

The principles behind the Compact are:

- Respect the contribution all groups make
- Understand the constraints each group works under
- Recognise everyone's role in providing quality services

Your Compact sets out a shared vision and principles, and promises from both sides.

Coordinated service delivery across the district needs effective partnership working. Your Compact recognises that we can achieve more by working together. The aim is to increase the benefits to the whole community by sharing knowledge, experience, expertise and resources.

The emphasis is now on partnership work and consultation. Your Compact gives local groups a voice to empower their community and ensure more democratic decision-making.

Your Compact is more than a document. It is:

- A reference - to ensure promises are kept
- A way of working together - at individual, organisational and partnership level.

Who is it for?

It is for all public bodies and groups who work in the Dover district - regardless of size - including community groups, black and minority ethnic groups and faith groups.



Benefits of the Compact include:

- **Better relations = better planning = better services**
- **Boosting community engagement and involvement in local services**
- **Improved communication and consultation**
- **Better access to information**
- **Public bodies can draw on knowledge from local groups**
- **Local groups can gain more influence**
- **Have your say!**



Codes of Practice

Four codes of good practice support your Compact:

- Resources
- Valuing Volunteers
- Consultation and Policy Appraisal
- Community Groups

There is now also a Dispute Resolution Procedure to hold one another to account.



Action

The Compact is a living document and will evolve overtime.

A Dover & District Compact Implementation Group meets quarterly to promote and deliver the Compact.

Our main priority is to ensure all groups know about, and use, the Compact. For details of member organisations, terms of reference and other Compact information, please see: www.dover.gov.uk/compact

The VCS consists of a diverse range of organisations and we need to find a transparent and democratic way for local groups to choose who should represent them. We also need to build effective two-way communication between these representatives and the groups they are speaking for. If you would like to become involved, please contact CASE Kent – details can be found at the end of this summary.

Kent County Council has also published its own Compact and we are looking at how our work can be joined to improve services and partnerships across the county. This will enable county-level organisations to become engaged at a grass-roots level.

