



Compact

Implementation





Introduction

This document is designed to support your organisation to implement and embed the principles of The Compact. It is recognised that every organisation is unique and that this document should act as guidance only.

It is recommended that this document be used in accordance with other supporting documents including the case studies provided.

What Is the Compact?

The Compact for West Cheshire is an agreement for the public sector and Community Sector to work collaboratively for the benefit of local communities. This agreement is designed to:

-  Build upon relationships between all organisations within the public, voluntary, community and faith sectors for mutual advantage
-  Lead to improved partnership working
-  Create sustainable, quality services for all communities, and
-  Recognise the importance of Community Sector organisations in terms of service provision, value to the economy, positive impact on well-being and quality of life, and promotion of volunteering and citizenship

The signatories to this Compact agree to treat each other with respect and to work together for their mutual benefit and, ultimately, to achieve the best outcomes for the residents of Cheshire West who use their services. Signatories of this Compact agree to the following key principles:

Key Principles	
Shared Purpose	All organisations are working towards a stronger future where we all play our part in thriving, caring, and sustainable communities.
Equal Partners	We achieve so much more together and there is more that unites us than divides us, taking a collaborative approach across organisations is vital to making a difference.
Involvement of All	Work with people, communities, organisations and those with lived experience at all stages when designing and developing services.
Partnership and Collaboration in Decision Making	We will work together to think creatively focusing on solutions rather than problems, we want our residents, communities and organisations to have the opportunities and resources to make a difference.
Keep it Local	Build strong local partnerships to maximise local strengths, support local suppliers and employment to retain wealth and jobs in West Cheshire.
Funding and Commissioning	Work together to support the commissioning of services to ensure that they involve and engage all communities that they affect. Ensure that the widest possible range of organisations can be involved in the provision of services.
Social Value	Focus on the common goal to have a positive impact on the community of West Cheshire through gaining additional value in how we deliver services.
Independence	Collectively acknowledge the differences between the Sectors that have agreed to this Compact and recognise that due to these differences, we as a collective are strengthened.

Implementation

Each organisation involved in the Compact has different responsibilities, governance and constraints. Implementation of the Compact will vary according to each organisation, the below table outlines some examples of how the principles could be applied with organisations empowered to decide how best to enact the agreed principles.

When signing the Compact, organisations should think about what the principles of the compact mean to them and set themselves key actions for each.

The Compact – Pledge

Organisation	Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA)		
Responsible Person	Ryan Gould	Role	Social Impact and Policy Lead
Signature	R. Gould	Date	30/06/2025

Shared Purpose

Actions	1	Helping build a high-quality, efficient and resilient community sector market that can support emerging needs in local communities
	2	Acting as a strategic link between the community and public sectors
	3	Promoting and enabling local community engagement, participation and empowerment, coproducing outcomes with partners to ensure everyone's priorities are recognised

Equal Partners

Actions	1	Making sure the community sector is seen as a system leader and equal partner
	2	Acting as a voice for the community sector and supporting other community sector organisations to do this in their specialist areas
	3	Identifying upcoming opportunities for the community sector

Involvement of All

Actions	1	Rolling out and developing the Local Voices Framework as a guide for coproduction
	2	Supporting community sector organisations to develop their lived experience communities
	3	Providing forums for people to connect and share best practice around coproduction

Partnership and Collaboration in Decision Making

Actions	1	Promoting clear communication between community and public sector about local challenges
	2	Fostering a shared problem-solving approach between community and public sector organisations
	3	Provide opportunities, such as networking events, alliances and partners, so community and public sector organisations can collaborate effectively

Keep it Local

Actions	1	Championing the community sector in West Cheshire and the impact made by local organisations
	2	Building and maintaining accurate online data about local support and ensuring it is easily accessed and well-promoted
	3	Deliver the Vision for Volunteering alongside partners, as well as explore other programmes, that provide opportunities for local people to gain volunteering or employment in the community sector

Funding and Commissioning

Actions	1	Running themed alliances, partnerships and networks to gather local insight, inform commissioning intentions and offer ready-made packages of community sector support
	2	Working with public sector partners to understand commissioning intentions and timelines so the community sector can engage effectively
	3	Exploring opportunities to distribute funding to community sector organisations

Social Value

Actions	1	Offering support to community sector organisations to develop their work around social value, social impact and social return on investment (SROI)
	2	Providing systems, such as Plinth and the Social Value Engine, that community sector organisations can use to show their social value, social impact and SROI
	3	Aggregating data to highlight the collective social value, social impact and SROI provided by the community sector, and using this to support funding and commissioning

Independence

Actions	1	As a strategic link between sectors, helping partners understand each other's differences and how we can work most effectively together
	2	Negotiating and building consensus across the community sector about its role in responding to a range of social needs and challenges
	3	Helping make sure the community sector is represented in relevant forums so we can all communicate and share our distinctive contribution and recognise that joint working won't compromise individual missions

ROLL OUT – DECLARATION