

Monday 20 July 2009

COMPACT CONSULTATION OPENS

A consultation paper on a revised national Compact, the longstanding agreement that sets out shared commitments and guidelines for working between the Government and the third sector in England, has been published today.

The paper has been produced by the key organisations associated with the Compact including Compact Voice, the independent body which represents the voluntary and community sector on taking forward the Compact, the Office of the Third Sector and the Commission for the Compact. The consultation follows on from last year's extensive discussion on the future of the Compact, which was initiated by the Office of the Third Sector and Compact Voice.

Angela Smith MP, Minister for the Third Sector, said:

“I am pleased to see this consultation launching today. The Compact has made a real difference to people and communities, and eleven years on the commitment from the Government remains as firm as ever.

“We have come a long way in developing the partnership between the Government and the third sector. But the landscape in which the Compact operates has changed and we must make sure that it continues to deliver.

“I want to ensure that the Compact remains relevant so that both the public sector and third sector organisations can continue to reap the benefits of effective partnership working.”

more over ... 2

Compact Consultation Opens ... 2

Simon Blake, Chair of Compact Voice, said

“This is one of the best opportunities we have to shape the ‘rules of engagement’ between government and the sector for the coming years. Compact Voice needs voluntary and community sector organisations of all shapes, sizes and social purposes to tell us what they want to give and get from the relationship with the state. Great strides have been made over the last decade following publication of the original agreement, and there is much more still to be done. The ‘refreshed’ Compact will help achieve those goals.”

This consultation paper gives an overview of the proposed content for a new and revised national Compact. In addition, it asks for views and sets out a series of consultation questions.

Sir Bert Massie CBE, Commissioner for the Compact, said:

“Over the last few months, we have reviewed the original Compact and revised and ‘refreshed’ it, taking into account recent developments in law, policy and practice. Now we are moving into the public consultation phase and we need your views. This is the time for everyone with an interest in the Compact to influence it.”

The consultation closes on Monday 12 October 2009. The final version of the revised national Compact will be launched later this year during Compact Week (Monday 2 to Sunday 8 November 2009).

For more information or for details on how to contribute to the consultation, please visit:
www.thecompact.org.uk/refresh

more over ... 3

Compact Consultation Opens ... 3

To submit views and comments from:

Third sector organisations
Email: refresh@compactvoice.org.uk

Public sector organisations including Central Government Departments
Email: refresh@thecompact.org.uk

Local Government
Email: info@lga.gov.uk

Notes for Editors

- The Compact was established in England in November 1998 and was inspired by the Deakin Commission report on the Future of the Voluntary Sector. It is an agreement that provides an overall framework for promoting effective partnership working between the Government and the third sector.
- During the preliminary stage of the 'refresh' process, a 'Refresh Panel' was established earlier this year to discuss key issues. Chaired by Sir Bert Massie CBE, Commissioner for the Compact, the Refresh Panel is made up of senior figures from across government and the third sector to inform the refresh process. A third Refresh Panel meeting will take place in September 2009.

Ends

For media enquiries, please contact:

Rebecca Morris, Head of Communications
Commission for the Compact
Tel: 0121 237 5913
Email: rebecca.morris@thecompact.org.uk

Catherine Byerley, Communications Officer
Commission for the Compact
Tel: 0121 237 5905
Email: catherine.byerley@thecompact.org.uk