



Stockport Partnership

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



The Stockport Compact: Stronger Together



The Stockport Compact

Foreword from the Chair of the Stockport Partnership

The Stockport Partnership is committed to working together to make Stockport one of the most successful, prosperous and attractive areas within the North West. To help us achieve this, the Stockport Compact will guide the way we work together and strengthen local partnerships. In particular, our Compact recognises that Stockport's community and voluntary sectors have a vital role to play in designing and delivering effective local services. By working well together we can achieve a great deal more for local communities.

A lot has been learnt since the production of Stockport's first Compact back in 2002. Based on the views of local community, voluntary and statutory organisations we have underpinned our Compact principles with a number of separate Codes of Practice. These Codes cover key issues such as funding, volunteering, consultation and equalities, and provide guidance and advice on how partners will engage, behave and work together on a daily basis.

As well as providing practical advice, producing the Codes of Practice will give us an opportunity to bring organisations together to develop a better understanding of how each sector works. It is essential that the different cultures, agendas and pressures are understood and acknowledged if we are to continue to improve and build on the strong relationships that we benefit from in Stockport.



Councillor Dave Goddard
Leader of Stockport Council

What is the Compact?

The Stockport Compact is an agreement that sets out how organisations in Stockport will work together. It sets out minimum standards for all partners to adopt in their day to day working, and recognises that good working relations between the sectors are vital if local people are to have the highest quality services and representation.

The Compact is made up of two main elements:

- **Partnership Principles** that set out a joint commitment for strong working relationships and a desire to improve the way partners work together, treat each other and resolve any disagreements.
- **Codes of Practice** that translate the principles into local action through jointly agreed standards. These standards provide clear working guidelines that will improve partnership working on a day to day basis and ensure a greater understanding of the needs of each sector.

The Compact Principles and Codes of Practice cover all aspects of the relationship between the sectors and have been jointly developed and agreed by the Stockport Partnership.

What will the Compact do?

The Compact aims to:

- Promote and support partnership working.
- Ensure that the contributions of all sectors are seen as equally valid.
- Develop jointly agreed standards to guide the work of partners on a day to day basis.
- Provide a baseline for reviewing and evaluating partnership working.
- Improve joint planning and joint provision of services in Stockport.
- Make the most of resources that are locally available.
- Make a real and positive difference to joint working in Stockport.

Why is it important?

Delivering effective local services relies on all partners sharing their resources, skills and local knowledge. However this sharing will only happen if local partnerships are built on mutual respect and trust.

Even within Stockport's strong partnership arrangements, there can be misunderstandings about how organisations work or about the limitations that organisations must work within. The Compact, and particularly the process for jointly developing and agreeing the Codes of Practice, will ensure greater openness and understanding between the different organisations that will help prevent future misunderstandings.

Shared Principles and commitments

The organisations covered by the Compact are all committed to improving the quality of life for the people of Stockport.

The fact that partners respond to this challenge in different ways is an important strength that results in a diverse range of local services, able to respond more effectively to the different local needs.

The aim of the Compact is for all partners to respect and value these differences.

The Stockport Compact is based on the shared principles of:

Mutual Respect - Each sector has its own ethos, culture and values and all partners must respect and value this. All partners will also have mutual respect for the skills, expertise and professionalism within each sector and will support the independence of, and value the contribution made by, each sector.

Transparency and Accountability - All partners are committed to open and strong relationships based on dialogue, transparency, honesty and accountability.

Equality - The Compact has adopted the Stockport Partnership's Diversity and Equality Policy. All partners must act in line with the policy and contribute to the Stockport Partnership's aim of being recognised and known as an inclusive partnership that represents and serves people as equals. The Partnership values people as individuals with diverse opinions, cultures, lifestyles and circumstances. More information on the policy objectives and Equal Opportunity Policy Statement can be found at www.stockportpartnership.org.uk

Compact Codes of Practice

The Codes of Practice are at different stages of development. Based on the views of local groups the Codes provide detailed guidelines on issues such as funding, volunteering, consultation and partnership working. For up to date information on each of the Codes of Practice please visit the Stockport Compact website at www.stockportcommunities.org.uk

Who does it apply to?

The Compact Principles and Codes of Practice apply to all voluntary, community and public sector organisations operating in Stockport. The following provides an explanation of the terms used in this document.

The Voluntary and Community Sector

The term 'voluntary and community sector' means independent voluntary and community organisations which are often registered charities. These can range from small local groups and faith organisations to large national and international organisations.

The sector is diverse in terms of the culture and history of the organisations and the range of activities they are involved in. Some have no income and rely on the efforts of volunteers while others are, in effect, medium sized businesses that make a profit to support growth, such as social enterprises and co-operatives.

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The Public Sector

The term 'public sector' means organisations that deliver services on behalf of the government, at a national, regional or local level. This also includes organisations created through an act of parliament where the law sets out what they do. Examples of public sector organisations include the Council, police service, health service etc. These organisations are also diverse in terms of structure and culture.

The Stockport Partnership

The Stockport Partnership is the main strategic partnership for Stockport. It brings together voluntary, community, public and private sector organisations in order to improve the quality of life for local people. The aims of the Stockport Partnership are set out in Stockport's Community Strategy, with the Compact being central to its principles and delivery.

What impact will it have?

By working together and adopting the Stockport Compact Principles and Codes of Practice all sectors will achieve:

- Effective communication and collaboration across organisations at all levels.
- Clear processes for engaging with each other and for influencing policy and strategy.
- Fair and transparent funding and commissioning processes.
- New opportunities for joint working and collaboration.
- Greater knowledge of the range of services provided by the different sectors and how these contribute to each other's priorities.
- Best use of local resources.
- Recognition of the value all sectors make to society.

Resolving disagreements

By adopting the Compact Principles and Codes of Practice the aim is to improve relationships between partners and avoid misunderstandings and disagreements. However there will be times when it is felt that the Compact Principles and/or Codes of Practice are not being properly followed or the expected standards are not being met. In such cases organisations should first try to resolve any disagreement by referring to the relevant Compact Code of Practice.

A monitoring group has been set up to oversee the impact and use of the Stockport Compact. The Group is made up of representatives from each sector and members will act as both a Compact 'champion' and the first point of contact to help resolve any disagreements.

The monitoring group has also developed some mediation guidelines designed to help this process. Contact details for the group and a copy of the guidelines can be found on the Stockport Compact section of www.stockportcommunities.org.uk

Review and monitoring

The Stockport Partnership is committed to the adoption and further development of the Stockport Compact and Codes of Practice. Bringing partners together to jointly produce the Codes of Practice will be key to building strong working relationships, but equally, this cannot be seen as the end of the process.

To ensure its ongoing development, the monitoring group will undertake an annual review of the Stockport Compact, and the processes for resolving disagreements, to ensure they continue to be relevant and effective.

The group will also provide regular updates to the Stockport Partnership Board and present the findings from its annual review to Stockport Council's Corporate, Resource Management and Governance Scrutiny Committee.

Useful contacts

The following is a list of members of the Stockport Compact Monitoring Group and other useful contacts.

Stockport Community and Voluntary Services

The Director
Russell Morley House
8-16 Lower Hillgate
Stockport SK1 1JE
Phone: 0161 477 0246
Email: info@stockportcvs.co.uk

Stockport Volunteer Centre

Russell Morley House
8-16 Lower Hillgate
Stockport SK1 1JE
Phone: 0161 477 0246
Email: info@stockportcvs.co.uk

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

Deputy Director of Planning and Business Development
Stepping Hill Hospital
Poplar Grove
Stockport SK2 7JE
Phone: 0161 419 5010
Email: trust.enquiries@stockport.nhs.uk

The Stockport Partnership Manager

Stockport Council
Town Hall
Stockport SK1 3XE
Phone: 0161 474 3174
Email: communitystrategy@stockport.gov.uk

National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Regent's Wharf
8 All Saints Street
London N1 9RL
Phone: 020 7520 2551
Email: compactweb.enquiry@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Community Representative on the Stockport Partnership Board

C/O Corporate Policy Team
Stockport Council
Town Hall
Stockport SK1 3XE
Phone: 0161 474 3174
Email: communityrep@stockport.gov.uk

Meeting of Voluntary Sector Executives (MOVES)

The Director
Age Concern Stockport
Commonweal
56 Wellington Street
Stockport SK1 3AQ
Phone: 0161 480 1211
Email: commonweal@ageconcernstockport.org.uk

NHS Stockport

Director of Public Health
Regent House
Heaton Lane
Stockport SK4 1BS
Phone: 0161 426 5031

Stockport Council

Voluntary Sector Liaison
Strategy and Performance
4th Floor, Stopford House
Stockport SK1 3XE
Phone: 0161 474 4539
Email: acd.comms@stockport.gov.uk

Commission for the Compact

77 Paradise Circus
Queensway
Birmingham
B1 2DT
Phone: 0121 237 5900
www.thecompact.org.uk

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STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Why not visit our website? www.stockportcommunities.org.uk

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information.

Please contact the Ethnic Diversity Service

Tel: 0161 477 9000

Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

Fax: 0161 480 1848

如果你需要他人為你解釋這小冊子/單張的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務。請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej broszurki/ulotki, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

যদি এই পুস্তিকা/প্রচার পত্রটি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন সাহায্য দরকার হয় তবে বিনা খরচে আপনার জন্য দেওয়াধীর ব্যবস্থা করা হতে পারে। মেহেরবানী করে স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন টেলিফোন নম্বর, 0161 477 9000.

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچے/پلٹ کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی انٹرنیٹنگ یونٹ کو 0161 477 9000 پھون کریں۔

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