

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

This Compact between Government and the voluntary and community sector provides a framework which will help guide our relationship at every level. It recognises that Government and the sector fulfil complementary roles in the development and delivery of public policy and services, and that Government has a role in promoting voluntary and community activity in all areas of our national life.

The work of voluntary and community organisations is central to the Government's mission to make this the Giving Age. They enable individuals to contribute to the development of their communities. By so doing, they promote citizenship, help to re-establish a sense of community and make a crucial contribution to our shared aim of a just and inclusive society. This Compact will strengthen the relationship between Government and the voluntary and community sector and is a document of both practical and symbolic importance.

Tony Blair

FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES AND THE CHAIR OF WALES COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION

The work of 23,000 voluntary and community organisations in Wales and the 1.9 million people who volunteer each year embraces every aspect of public life and forms a vital part of every community. Whether it's providing a much needed and innovative new service or campaigning for the interests of disadvantaged groups, voluntary action plays a central role in our modern pluralistic society and enhances the democratic process.

The Compact between the Government and the voluntary sector in Wales recognises this enormous contribution to the communities and the environment of Wales. It is an agreement between partners founded on the shared interest of the voluntary and statutory sectors in building a just and open society where there is equality of opportunity for individuals to play their full part in the life of their communities.

The Compact is built on principles of integrity, trust and mutual respect. It sets out and clarifies for the first time the responsibilities and expectations of both Government and the voluntary sector in working together. It sets out best practice in the allocation and management of public resources. It promotes greater participation in the formulation and implementation of public policy, enhancing and broadening the democratic process. It sets a structure for fair and effective co-operation in taking forward strategic programmes.

The Compact paves the way for the future as it is intended to form the basis for the National Assembly's Voluntary Sector Scheme.

It is with great pleasure and hope for the future co-operation between the voluntary sector and Government in Wales that we commend this document and commit ourselves to implementing its proposals.

Alun Michael
Marjorie Dykins OBE

COMPACT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN WALES

Introduction

The Government is committed to recognising, valuing and promoting the voluntary sector as it builds a genuine partnership with the sector. This Compact sets out the broad principles and shared values which will govern the relationship between the Government and the voluntary sector in Wales. In this Compact, the term "voluntary sector" incorporates voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests.

Implementation, monitoring and review

The Compact is an agreement between the Government and the voluntary sector in Wales. It is dependent upon the policies and procedures to which the Government commits itself in this document. The Compact will be recommended to the National Assembly as a basis for developing the Voluntary Sector Scheme.

The Welsh Office/Voluntary Sector Forum, supported by the Welsh Office Voluntary Sector Branch, will agree an action plan setting out specific measures for implementing the Compact, including the targets and timetable against which this is to be measured.

A review of the implementation and impact of the Compact and action plan will be conducted annually and a report submitted to the Minister with responsibility for the voluntary sector in Wales and the Ministerial Taskforce on the voluntary sector.

Aims of the Compact

The Government's aims in developing a Compact are set out in "Building the Future Together - Labour's policies for partnership between Government and the Voluntary Sector" (1997). They are:

1. To encourage good practice and co-operative methods of decision making and for reviewing performance, particularly where organisations receive Government finance as service providers.
2. To encourage voluntary organisations and charities through co-operation and training as well as through financial support.

3. To encourage volunteering initiatives and the idea that voluntary activity is an essential part of citizenship.
4. To encourage the work of umbrella organisations and co-operation between such organisations.
5. To recognise specific needs and special contributions made by groupings organisations of disabled people and the voluntary sector in rural areas are just three examples.
6. To encourage a growth in the contribution of different age groups. Voluntary activity must be seen as a part of citizenship for young people while the contribution of older people, who bring to bear a lifetime's experience, should not be underestimated. While many organisations depend on the commitment of their older members and while many young people contribute zeal and energy, the fact is that the potential is not being realised to the full at either end of the age range.
7. To ensure that Government is measuring and recognising things that really matter, both within Government and between Government and non-Governmental organisations.
8. To review the co-ordination of Government relationships with the voluntary sector across departments.
9. To assess carefully, in consultation with relevant voluntary organisations, the potential impact of policy changes upon the sector.

Shared values

The Government and the voluntary sector share a number of common values about the role of individuals and communities in a modern democracy which will underpin all aspects of this Compact. Both agree that our aim is the creation of a civil society which:

- offers equality of opportunity to all its members regardless of race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, language preference, religion or family/domestic responsibilities;
- is inclusive and enable people to participate in all its economic, social and cultural activities;
- empowers people to participate in the development of their communities;
- relies on people's voluntary action to foster community leadership and enhance local democracy;
- comprises public, private and voluntary sectors and its problems are

best addressed through partnership between them.

The Government and the voluntary sector agree that their relationship must be built on integrity, trust and mutual respect.

The Government and the voluntary sector agree that partnership means working together towards a common set of goals, based on equality in terms of ownership, decision-making and recognition of each party's distinctive contribution.

GOVERNMENT	VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING INTERESTS
<p>Recognition</p> <p>The Government recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the wide scope and diversity of voluntary activity across the whole spectrum of public life; the contribution voluntary and community organisations and volunteers make to the economic, social, environmental and cultural life of Wales; and the role they play in formulating and delivering public policy; • that voluntary and community organisations are independent organisations which determine their own priorities and manage their own affairs; • that volunteering is the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community; the environment; or individuals outside one's immediate family. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without concern for financial gain; 	<p>Recognition</p> <p>The voluntary sector recognises the important strategic role that the Government plays in the development and delivery of public policy and services.</p> <p>The voluntary sector recognises the legal and financial framework within which the Government operates.</p> <p>Voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests recognise their responsibility to be accountable to the different parties that have an interest in their work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their members; • the people who use their services; • the communities in which

- that voluntary and community organisations have an obligation to represent the interests of their constituents;
- that voluntary and community organisations operate within the principles upon which they are founded, and are accountable to their members and the individuals and communities with whom they work.

The Government makes the following commitments:

- designating a Minister to have responsibility for the interests of volunteers and voluntary and community organisations;
- developing, in consultation with the voluntary sector:
 - a policy on working in partnership with voluntary and community organisations and measures to support this;
 - a policy on volunteering and measures to promote volunteering;
 - a policy on community development and measures to promote it.

they work;

- the general public and funding bodies that support their work;
- the regulatory bodies that oversee their activities.

Voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests are committed to having clearly defined procedures and structures that enable them to fulfil their obligations on accountability

GOVERNMENT	VOLUNTARY SECTOR
<p data-bbox="272 491 495 527">Representation</p> <p data-bbox="272 554 894 804">The Government recognises that voluntary organisations have an obligation to represent the interests of their constituents and the people and communities they work with. The Government acknowledges organisations' right to campaign on behalf of these interests within the regulatory framework.</p> <p data-bbox="272 831 711 867">The Government is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="326 909 894 1119">• setting out agreed procedures for consultation on policy changes and new policy developments which affect voluntary and community organisations and/or volunteering interests which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="418 1150 894 1440">▪ opportunities for ongoing discussion between voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests and Government Departments to foster early understanding and involvement in policy development; <li data-bbox="418 1472 894 1608">▪ consultation arrangements that normally allow adequate time for wider consultation with networks and service users; <li data-bbox="418 1640 894 1740">▪ the role of umbrella bodies and intermediaries in facilitating consultation; <li data-bbox="418 1772 894 1873">▪ feedback to respondents on the replies to and outcomes of the consultation; 	<p data-bbox="938 491 1161 527">Representation</p> <p data-bbox="938 554 1323 915">Many voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests are involved in representing the interests of particular groups or causes in society and campaigning on their behalf. Voluntary and community organisations and voluntary interests are committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="992 957 1291 1104">• defining and demonstrating how they represent their stated constituency; <li data-bbox="992 1136 1339 1451">• consulting their constituency and accurately representing their views when presenting a case to Government or responding to Government consultations; <li data-bbox="992 1482 1339 1766">• ensuring that the information they present to Government is accurate and that research has been conducted in an objective and unbiased manner; <li data-bbox="992 1797 1323 1864">• having regard for the regulatory framework

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ opportunities for the sector to continue to be involved at the implementation and evaluation stages of the policy. 	<p>that governs their organisation when campaigning on behalf of their constituents.</p> <p>Where organisations claim a leading role in representation they should be prepared to respond in reasonable time to Government consultations on relevant subjects, commensurate with their available resources.</p>
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GOVERNMENT	VOLUNTARY SECTOR
<p>Partnership</p> <p>The Government recognises that the voluntary sector and volunteers operate across a wide range of disciplines, in a wide range of roles, and have a particular contribution to make.</p> <p>The Government is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting out arrangements for working in partnership with voluntary and community organisations and with volunteering interests in the voluntary, statutory and private sectors in all relevant policy areas; • promoting partnerships between public and voluntary sectors through its policies 	<p>Partnership</p> <p>Voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests recognise the value of working in partnership in addressing society's problems and improving the quality of life of all its members. Voluntary organisations recognise that real partnership brings benefits and responsibilities for all those involved.</p> <p>Voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests are committed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a partnership approach with government and its agencies in areas of common benefit; • co-operating with government departments in setting out joint working arrangements;

<p>and funding strategies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the role of the voluntary sector throughout the public sector including Non-Departmental Public Bodies; • encouraging public bodies to designate a senior person to have responsibility for relations with the voluntary sector; • promoting the spirit and principles of the Compact to local authorities and to the Welsh Local Government Association; • dialogue with organisations on the development of their long-term objectives. • proofing of all significant policy changes across all policy areas for their impact on the voluntary sector, volunteering and community interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking a proactive approach to informing Government of developments in their work that may be relevant to the formulation of policy and practice; • assisting Government to extend the reach of its information sources and partners, particularly amongst under-represented sections of society; • developing and sharing innovative approaches to service delivery based on the needs and circumstances of the service users; • providing high quality, cost effective services with systems to assure quality and accountability to the people who use them.
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<p>GOVERNMENT</p> <p>Resources</p> <p>The Government recognises that its policies on voluntary organisations, volunteering and community development should include measures for financial support of the sector.</p>	<p>VOLUNTARY SECTOR</p> <p>Resources</p> <p>The voluntary sector recognises that receipt of public funds carries with it responsibilities to the funding body and to the</p>
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The extent of such measures will be determined by the level of resources available and funds will need to be targeted according to priorities. The Government also recognises its role in ensuring that the voluntary sector has fair and reasonable access to other sources of public funds arising from Government and European programmes operating in Wales.

The Government is committed to establishing and maintaining procedures to ensure accepted best practice in the administration of its grant schemes and those of agencies which administer funds on its behalf, including:

- clarity in the objectives of grant schemes and their eligibility criteria;
- transparency and objectivity in the administrative and assessment procedures;
- consistency between funding programmes
- arrangements that assist voluntary organisations to meet their legal and regulatory obligations;
- arrangements for agreeing meaningful objectives and performance indicators, commensurate with the level of funding, by which an organisation is to be monitored and evaluated;
- progress towards three year funding arrangements for core-grants as a means of promoting effective long-term planning;
- effective arrangements for co-operating between departments over grant aid for activities that do not readily fit within one department's responsibilities;
- targeting resources effectively.

public that benefit from the services provided.

The voluntary sector is committed to pursuing acknowledged codes of practice on the use and administration of public funds appropriate to the scale of funding and operation covering:

- clear and effective employment policies, management arrangements and procedures;
- effective and proportionate systems for the management, control, accountability, propriety and audit of finances;
- systems for planning and implementation of work programmes;
- systems for monitoring and evaluation of activities against agreed objectives;
- systems for quality assurance and accountability to users, including complaints procedures;
- policies for ensuring equality of opportunity in both employment practice and service provision;
- public acknowledgement of Government support.

The Government is also committed to promoting good practice to other funders.	
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Organisations involved in developing the Compact

<p>Wales Volunteering Forum</p> <p>Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services</p> <p>National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux Wales</p> <p>Housing Forum Cymru</p> <p>National Federation of Women's Institutes (Wales)</p> <p>Social Care Network</p> <p>Mewn Cymru</p> <p>Children in Wales</p> <p>Wales Wildlife and Countryside Link</p> <p>Age Concern Wales</p> <p>Centre for Visual Arts</p> <p>Environment Wales</p> <p>Lloyds TSB Foundation</p> <p>Black Voluntary Sector Network</p> <p>Gwent Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Voluntary Arts Network</p> <p>Tenants Participation Advisory Service</p>	<p>The Wales Co-operative Development and Training Centre</p> <p>Wales Assembly of Women</p> <p>Antur Waunfawr</p> <p>Save the Children Fund</p> <p>British Trust for Conservation Volunteers</p> <p>The Arts Factory</p> <p>Butetown History and Arts Project</p> <p>Wales Association of County Voluntary Councils</p> <p>Wales Council for Voluntary Action</p> <p>The Development Trusts Association</p> <p>Chwarae Teg</p> <p>Wales Association of Volunteer Bureaux</p> <p>Arts Council of Wales</p> <p>Wales Youth Agency</p> <p>National Audit Office</p> <p>CADW</p> <p>Welsh Office</p>
<p>Voluntary Sector Branch</p> <p>Welsh Office</p> <p>Cathays Park</p> <p>Cardiff</p> <p>CF1 3NQ</p>	<p>Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)</p> <p>Llys Ifor</p> <p>Crescent Road</p> <p>Caerphilly CF83 1XL</p>

	Registered charity number 218093
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