

There are now over 500 Local Compact Voice members and over 50 Friends!

Local Compact Voice Forum on line <http://lcvforum.ning.com> – *join by personal invitation*

Friends of Local Compact Voice on line <http://friendslcv.ning.com> – *ask* champions and key contacts in your council and PCT to join!

(1) What can your Local Compact really do?

If our Compacts just get bogged down in compliance issues we will lose the plot. Local Compacts are about common purpose harnessing mutual advantage through working together to produce wins that improve people's lives and strengthen the local community. It isn't enough for us to be a Can Do sector – we also need to show what we do. Showcasing local campaign successes is part of our sector *independence campaign* that runs until Christmas. Raising the profile of the local sector, the achievements from working together and your Compact will help in building on success to make more of a difference.

- ▶ Ask your Local Compact Implementation Group to discuss a vision for what your Compact can do and feed this into our work on a Full Value Local Compact.

(2) Making the Links – Stretching your Compact's use beyond a stand-alone tool

Most Local Compacts are still under 5 years old and implementing them is a voyage of discovery in which we have yet to find out all they can do. Obviously, they have the flexibility to underpin local area agreements, community engagement, scrutiny, best value and all the policy processes. Using them is a missing page in guidance and regulation because what Local Compacts can do is still beyond Government's understanding and they have yet to introduce Compact-proofing. Where a Local Compact is linked with any process, local partners themselves have spotted the value. For instance, in Buckinghamshire the Compact Steering Group has been handed the Thriving Sector NI7 work.

- ▶ If you want it to be used more then find more ways of using it. Make one new link between your Compact and a policy process between now and Compact Week
- ▶ Is it a good idea to pull together *examples of how to use Local Compacts*? Can you offer any examples?

(3) Great expectations – that your Compact will work and can deliver wins

Simply saying it isn't working can become a self fulfilling prophesy. Your Compact is a done deal. Expect public bodies who have signed up to your Compact to work together with the sector to put things right when they go wrong. Resourcing the implementation of your Local Compact will be more likely with a shared vision which helps the sector and local public bodies understand what it really can do.

- ▶ We are developing *Local Compact LAA advice* (it's never too late to get it right) and a *model business case for resourcing Local Compact implementation* – get in touch if you want to be involved or can contribute something from either positive or negative experience.

(4) What makes a successful Local Compact?

This event series is a great chance to look at the new research and share ideas with others on how to get Compacts to work effectively. It would be a real shame if the **South West** falls behind – if that's your region, do come to the Exeter event on 23 September or find someone else from the voluntary or public sector to go. Knowing *What* makes Local Compacts succeed and *How* to do it isn't just possible – it's vital but the *Why* is also needed to enable the vision to be achieved. Bringing this all together fits the Compact Week theme: *Making the Compact a reality* and should be picked up then. Also for your Compact week events and earlier forum and network meetings: do get *The Debate on the Future of Local Compacts* on the agenda.

From

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COMPACT VOICE: The independent voice of the Compact

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