

June 2001



Compact

the Compact among Bridgend: County Borough Council,
Local Health Group & Voluntary Sector



foreword

The Bridgend Compact

The purpose of this document is to improve and consolidate the working relationships among all the parties concerned in order to develop the quality of services to the residents of Bridgend County Borough.

Foreword

This is the Compact document for the Bridgend County Borough. It is the product of work among members of the County Borough Council, the Bridgend Local Health Group (a sub-committee of Iechyd Morgannwg Health) and the Voluntary Sector.

All partners recognize that by working together they can significantly increase the range of services and activities available to the local community. This will create the best environment and achieve the best quality of life for the communities of the County Borough in line with current and future frameworks.



introduction



Both Bridgend County Borough Council and the Bridgend Local Health Group have a history of working with the Voluntary Sector. As key contributors to the social cohesion, health and welfare of the people of the County Borough of Bridgend, Voluntary Sector involvement at all levels is acknowledged to be one of the key elements of successful and responsive working. Influenced by the 'Achieving Shared Aims' document (Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGGA), all parties have declared their commitment to working in partnership and have, therefore, sought to establish a Compact to regulate all aspects of their joint work.

This Compact is a partnership agreement, which reflects shared vision and places responsibilities on all sides. Mechanisms for communication among partners and a strategy for implementation of the Compact must include effective systems for monitoring and review.

Shared values and principles are needed to guide joint work. All sectors must be comfortable with and committed to this. The relationship is to be built on integrity, trust and mutual respect.

It is hoped that the wide circulation of this document will:

- Raise awareness of the efforts being made to forge close partnership working;
- Help improve the understanding of some of the key issues facing the partnership;
- Encourage involvement by people and community groups not currently participating in the forums and other forms of partnership working developed and supported by the partners to this Compact;
- Facilitate working together.

Shared Values, Principles and Good Practice

It is recognised that all partners have a wide range of differing skills, experience and abilities, which make a valuable contribution to the quality of life of local residents. The following shared values, principles and good practice form the basis of the common ground of this partnership. All partners have a shared belief in:

- The provision of high quality, cost-effective services that meet the needs identified by the community with measurable outcomes;



- Assessment, monitoring and evaluation;
- Community regeneration;

- Consistent, good quality communication;
- Environmental, social, economic and cultural sustainability;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Equal status of the Welsh Language;
- Information sharing;
- Openness and accountability;
- Social inclusion
- Ensuring that all employees and volunteers abide by the above commitments as a matter of policy.

Roles

While all parties operate within their founding principles and are separately accountable, it is recognised that the legal and financial constraints within which Local Government, the Health Service and the Voluntary Sector operate are different. All parties to this Compact have their individual roles. In particular it is recognised that:

As a democratically elected body, Bridgend County Borough Council, is tasked with specific

statutory powers and duties, to provide and enable services to be delivered to the local community, ensuring that public funds are used appropriately and responsibly. It also acts as community leader with the power to promote the social, environmental and economic well being of the community it serves.

The Voluntary Sector in Bridgend County Borough is not a single organisation but a partnership of organisations, each with their own aims, objectives and legal constitutions. They are brought together by their common commitment to providing cost effective and sustainable services to the community by mobilising the skills and expertise that are the community. Voluntary organisations may have an advocacy role. This is a positive and valid activity, which empowers and extends local democracy.

The Bridgend Local Health Group is a sub-committee of Iechyd Morgannwg Health Authority. The role of the Local Health Group is to work with local agencies and local people to improve health and health services by responding to local health needs.

Responsibilities

All partners are committed to working, promoting and developing good practice, policies and procedures. Whilst the content of such policies and procedures are likely to be specific to each individual agency all partners are committed to ensuring that they:

Have clear structures with specified aims and objectives;

Operate within the terms of their stated aims and objectives;

Are accountable, as appropriate, to their members, their clients, the communities in which they work, the general public and the funding bodies that support their work and the regulatory bodies that oversee their activities;

Have effective employment policies, management arrangements and appropriate quality control procedures.

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Penybont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council





the Compact

A Common Strategy

This Compact is founded on the principle that wherever possible participation and involvement in joint working and planning will maximize the positive outcomes for the community within Bridgend County Borough. On this basis, it is essential that all partners are committed to the principles of participation and involvement in joint working and planning in order to:

Ensure improved methods of reaching socially excluded people and assist partners by finding innovative ways of involving socially excluded groups;

Identify and respond to needs, overlaps or gaps in service provision;

Work towards the concepts and principles of sustainable development;

Work towards the principle of equality and its implementation in terms of employment and service provision

Funding

All partners are committed to maximizing the levels of funding within the County Borough to meet the identified needs of the community. Within this it is essential that appropriate funds are accessed and these are used effectively with quality outcomes for targeted recipients. All partners will:

Ensure that funding procedures are applied fairly and consistently in line with identified and prioritised needs;

Introduce, wherever possible, agreements of three years duration;

Fully involve all partners in the design and operation of internal and external funding initiatives;

Produce regular, clear, consistent advice and information on internal and external funding opportunities.





Volunteering

All partners recognise volunteering as an important contribution and commitment made by local people to their communities. Volunteers contribute to the services provided by all the partners. Their contribution supports the sustaining and development of local projects and initiatives. This Compact seeks to promote and develop volunteer activity within the County Borough by:

Recognising the value and commitment of volunteers to the development and sustainability of their communities;

Raising the profile of volunteering within the County Borough to ensure voluntary activity attains a higher status;

Developing and disseminating good practice policies and procedures on volunteering;

Ensuring issues of good practice in relation to volunteering have a higher importance from the grassroots level through to strategic planning;

Working to build up a comprehensive picture of volunteer activity and opportunities in the County Borough as a precursor to developing policies on volunteering;

Ensuring that the potential for volunteering is considered in policy initiatives.

Training

All partners are committed to the value of training. It is recognised that within the County Borough and the partners to this Compact many resources are dedicated to the provision of training. All partners recognise that it is essential that the benefit of these resources are maximised. Wherever possible all partners will seek to:

Design and commission joint training;

Make details and information of training courses available to all partners;

Wherever possible allow other agencies to attend training courses.





Communication and Consultation

The successful implementation of this Compact will depend

upon effective

communication and consultation between all partners and their wider constituents. It is recognised that each partner has its own procedures and policies for communication and consultation, which will need to adopt the principles of this Compact. To ensure this all partners will:



Have clear and appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure effective participation with all target audiences;

Facilitate the sharing of information to shape local developments;

Offer a mechanism for disseminating information about policies and plans;

Promote and share good practice regarding consultation methods with other partners.



Monitoring and Evaluation

This Compact represents the development and consolidation of relationships between its partners. It is an evolving dynamic process and its effectiveness will be closely monitored. All partners acknowledge the importance of evaluation. An annual review process will be established.

Concluding Comments

The Compact should be seen as a 'living document' that will evolve in light of experience. Over time, it is intended to develop a forward programme of joint action by the Council, the Bridgend Local Health Group, Voluntary Organisations and the wider community, working towards a shared vision.

Production of the Compact represents the next milestone in the ever-developing partnership between the Council, the Local Health Group and the Voluntary Sector.