



**November 2010 issue 10**

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### **City's Compact Scoops award for fifth year running**

Wolverhampton Compact – a partnership between Wolverhampton City Council and the voluntary and community sector – has received a prestigious award for the fifth year running.

It was given an Excellence award in the Local Compact of the Year category of the 2010 National Compact Awards in recognition of the work it is doing for the people of Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Compact is a commitment between the city council, police and fire services, health bodies and voluntary and community sector organisations which aims to ensure people work better together for the good of the whole community when developing and delivering services.

It was praised by judges for demonstrating effective partnership working in a number of areas including:

- Appointing a compact champion in each area of service provided by the city council whose role it is to champion partnership working between the public and voluntary sector
- Working with Members to develop training to highlight the importance to public sector agencies of listening and enabling the community to influence policy, procedure and practice
- Preparing a Compact Champions Support Pack for the public sector
- Working with the Centre for Dispute Resolution to train Compact mediators in the city.



Wolverhampton Compact was established five years ago and its award was its fifth in a row – an unprecedented achievement.

**Councillor John Pask, Wolverhampton City Council's Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety**, said: “I am proud to congratulate all the Compact partners from the public, voluntary and community sectors on this award.

“The success of Wolverhampton’s Compact shows our unwavering commitment to continue to work together for the people of Wolverhampton, and to tackle together whatever difficulties partners are presented with as we go forward.”

**Ian Darch, the Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council**, added:

“Effective partnership working across the public, voluntary and community sectors is even more crucial in the challenging times ahead if we are to ensure the best outcomes for local people.

The landscape in which we work in is changing; the need for principles of mutual respect, honesty, openness, fairness and of working together for continuous improvement is not.

“The Wolverhampton Compact provides a framework based on these principles within which partnership working takes place and the high regard in which our Compact is held on a national basis is a glowing testament to our city.”

## WOLVERHAMPTON COMPACT E BULLETIN

For more information about Wolverhampton Compact and to see the Compact Champions Support Pack, please visit [www.wolverhamptoncompact.co.uk](http://www.wolverhamptoncompact.co.uk). Anyone who is holding an event and would like Wolverhampton Compact to be a part of it should contact Saffi Price at WVSC or Martha Cummings at WCC.

[sprice@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk](mailto:sprice@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk) or [Martha.cummings@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Martha.cummings@wolverhampton.gov.uk)



Compact Award of Excellence—Local  
Compact of the Year

Simon Blake, chair of Compact Voice  
with Wolverhampton Compact Champions.  
Martha Cummings, Stephen Dodd,  
Karen Cross and Ian Darch.



## WOLVERHAMPTON COMPACT E BULLETIN

Wolverhampton  
one CITY

### NEW SUPPORT PACK FOR PUBLIC SECTOR COMPACT CHAMPIONS

Commission  
for the Compact

A support pack for public sector Compact Champions has been published by the Commission for the Compact.

Effective championing is pivotal to improving Local Compact performance. Working in collaboration with **Wolverhampton Compact partners**, the Commission for the Compact has designed the pack to help guide and support public sector Compact Champions to further promote, raise awareness and increase implementation of their Local Compact.

The pack is relevant to all public sector Compact Champions, whether they have been recently appointed or recruited or have been a Champion for some time.

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

“Our previous research into the role of Compact Champions demonstrated their vital importance in raising awareness and increasing implementation of Local Compacts. We wanted to support Compact Champions further. This pack offers ideas on how to champion more effectively.

“We want people to use this document and build on it, make it relevant for their Compact Champions or organisation, and include their own best practice and ways of working. It should be a living document that acts as a reference for all public sector Champions, and develops to reflect learning and best practice.”



Public Sector Champions support pack...2

**Cllr John Pask, Lead Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, from Wolverhampton City Council said:**

“In Wolverhampton, we value partnership working that exists between the public and voluntary and community sectors. Across all sectors our Compact Champions help promote and develop that relationship. We are facing unprecedented financial pressures in which the Compact is a tool to help us to strengthen and build on those partnerships, which are crucial to ensuring we can support economic growth and build a strong civil society.”

**Ian Darch, Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council, added:**

“The Compact, partnership working and an understanding of the voluntary and community sector are even more important in the challenging times ahead. The relationship between the public sector and the voluntary and community sector is an evolving one. As the landscape changes, the need for principles of mutual respect, honesty, openness, fairness and of working together for continuous improvement, that underpin many successful relationships, does not.”

**To download the support pack or to find out more about the Compact, please visit:**

**[www.wolverhamptoncompact.co.uk](http://www.wolverhamptoncompact.co.uk)**



### **Compact helps secure Voluntary Sector budget**

Wolverhampton City Council announced this week that it is hoping to maintain the level of budget currently allocated to the voluntary and community sector at £2.97M. It will continue to work with organisations within the sector to identify efficiencies so that this resource can be used to maximise the impact that the sector can make across the City & its neighbourhoods. Remarkably there has been an increase, rather than a decrease, in the number of groups supported over the past 12 months

The Lead Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, Councillor John Pask, said: “The Council’s Cabinet had agreed this approach despite a ‘very challenging budgetary situation. The City needs economic growth to be supported by a strong Civil Society. The Council will be working with organisations across the city to establish priorities and achieve further efficiencies as well as service improvements. This will mean a range of changes as we move forward; changes in the way we work with the sector and to the organisations supported and to services that are delivered in the City.

In 2011/12, just like the Council, the city’s voluntary and community sector will be facing a number of difficulties as numerous funding streams come to an end on 31 March 2011. The impact of this will be a reduction or loss in services being delivered to some of our City’s most vulnerable people. All partners in the City recognise that efficiencies have to be made and the Council wants to ensure that there is continuing dialogue around those decisions’.



The Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council Ian Darch commends the approach currently being adopted by the Council: “Our sector has a key role to play in meeting the challenges of a more austere funding regime. Groups and organisations in Wolverhampton are often able to offer better value for money than service providers in other sectors and often deliver additional value in regard to outcomes such as input from volunteers, contributions to partnership working and so on.

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*\* Saffi Price and Martha Cummings, Compact Development \*  
 \* Workers from Voluntary Sector Council and City Council are \*  
 \* really pleased that the Compact is working effectively in Wol- \*  
 \* verhampton to make changes and improvements to the way we \*  
 \* work together. Often the Compact is not recognised for the \*  
 \* difference it makes. Much of the work of the Compact hap- \*  
 \* pens behind the scenes. People refer to it before undertaking \*  
 \* a piece of consultation or look at the volunteering code of \*  
 \* practice before working with volunteers. Often people contact \*  
 \* us to check whether we can help to change something that \*  
 \* doesn't seem fair and because the Compact is a document \*  
 \* that we all recognise, we can use the principles contained \*  
 \* within it to move an issue forward. It has helped to change \*  
 \* the culture and nature of partnership working for the better \*  
 \* in Wolverhampton. \**

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### WOLVERHAMPTON COMPACT NEEDS YOU!

To help Wolverhampton Compact to be even more well used and understood we need the valuable support of Compact Champions. Champions can feed into the overall direction and development of the Compact by raising awareness at events and meetings. Champions act as the voice of the Compact not only within their own organisations but also those that they come into contact with on a regular basis.

#### Support for Champions

- Compact Champions are invited to an annual event and will receive regular updates about, local, regional and national progress of the Compact.
- The Champion's Network meets on a quarterly basis to share ideas, information and experiences.
- Saffi Price, Partnership and Participation Co-ordinator based at Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and Martha Cummings, Senior Voluntary and Community Sector Officer, Community Initiatives Team, Wolverhampton City Council provide ongoing advice and support.

If you would like to sign up to become a Compact Champion please contact Kath Pye at WVSC, 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN Tel 01902 773761 email [kpye@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk](mailto:kpye@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk)



**The next Champions' Meeting is to be held on 8th December  
10:00 to 12:00 WVSC Meeting Room**



## WOLVERHAMPTON COMPACT E BULLETIN



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY COLLEAGUES WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE WOLVERHAMPTON COMPACT E-BULLETIN. COPIES CAN BE SENT OUT TO MEMBERS VIA EMAIL OR POST.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANISATION TO **SIGN UP TO THE COMPACT OR NOMINATE A COMPACT CHAMPION**

Details should be sent to:

**KATH PYE**

COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

16 TEMPLE STREET

WOLVERHAMPTON

WV2 4AN

TEL: 01902 773761

EMAIL: [kpye@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk](mailto:kpye@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk)

**Please include details: Name, Position, Organisation, Department, Address, Telephone Numbers, Email address and Fax Number.**

***Thank You***

***We look forward to hearing from you***