

Role of Compact Champions

Mission Statement

Effective championing is key to improving Compact performance. This helps achieve better outcomes for individuals and communities.

The role of a Compact Champion involves advocating the Compact at a 'grass roots' level; promoting within their organisation how adherence to its principles can be of mutual advantage to those partners involved.

Additionally, it can involve advocating the Compact at a strategic level by creating an environment allows development of best practise.

Qualities of Compact Champions

- Champions promote, raise awareness and build understanding of the Compact, which helps increase implementation
- Champions are needed at both strategic and operational levels. Operational champions market the Compact and offer practical support, while strategic level champions can create the right working environment and help remove barriers to implementation
- Champions don't have to be experts but they do need good communication and promotion skills
- Champions are often energetic, motivated and committed individuals. Being brought together through a network and being linked into key strategic decision-making processes can boost their impact.

Key duties

Raising awareness of the Compact so that people know what its benefits are
By promoting the Compact and its principles within your place of work

Helping to change the way local public sector bodies and third sector groups work together
By ensuring that practices within respective units and departments are compliant with the Compact

Developing better commissioning and procurement practices

Those involved in commissioning and procurement practices should work to ensure that policies and working practices are not detrimental to the third sector and recognise the specialist skills the sector has to offer

Developing conflict resolution processes and helping resolve problems

Creating a toolkit which can be utilised whenever Compact non-compliances are highlighted (eg East Sussex model) and helping to mediate conflict resolution

Creating a culture of greater transparency and co-operation

Increasing trust and understanding between the public and third sector

Helping to get the Compact embedded in mainstream structures

Pushing for the Compact to be featured and to influence the review of key strategy documents

Helping to build an evidence base for the effectiveness of Compact working

Record all Compact successes and celebrate them! (A compact success can be defined as a time when the Compact has been used as a successful mediator to tackle a problem or issue which exists between the third and public sector)

Acting as a means to involve otherwise excluded groups in consultation and decision making processes

Ensuring that the reviewed Compact addresses the issue of 'engagement' and provides an outline illustrating best practice surrounding the engagement of 'hard to reach' groups

Developing new services

Using the Compact as a means by which to develop new services in a more innovative manner in partnership with the third sector

Adhering to monitoring arrangements

By providing verbal updates at Compact Champion meetings and supporting other 'soft' monitoring methods (such as a completion of a bi-annual questionnaire which will help to evaluate the 'success' of the reviewed Compact document.