

WE WISH TO BE PART OF THE THANET COMPACT

We wish to sign up to the Thanet Compact and agree to work within the framework established by the agreed Codes of Practice and associated agreements.

We will promote and encourage other organisations and agencies to also sign up to the Thanet Compact and become involved in the principles and practices that it promotes.

Name of Organisation: _____

Signed on behalf of the above organisation by:

Printed Name: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Email: _____

Website Address: _____

This statement will be included in a register of signatories and held at the office of the Thanet Compact Secretariat, the address below.

Please forward this completed form to:
Thanet Compact Implementation Group
The Old Town Hall
Market Place
Margate
Kent CT9 1EU
Tel: 01843 864487
01843 577092

Email: thethanetcompact@yahoo.co.uk Web: www.thanetcompact.org.uk

Mini Guide



Working together for Thanet

Introduction

- Providing easy to understand, simple information about Thanet Compact.
- Should be used in unison with Thanet Compact agreement and the annual action plan which is available in more detail.
- To be used as a quick reference guide to Thanet Compact.
- If more information is needed regarding Thanet Compact please contact:

Voluntary and Community Sector:

Barry Coppock

Thanet Senior Citizen's Forum

10 Darren Gardens

Broadstairs

Kent CT10 2EF

barrycoppock@hotmail.com (01843) 864487

Statutory Sector:

Sarah Phippin

Corporate Project Adviser

Thanet District Council

PO Box 9, Cecil Street

Margate

Kent CT9 1XZ

sarah.phippin@thanet.gov.uk (01843) 577092

Resolving Issues

The Thanet Compact Disputes Procedure is in place to resolve any problems that may arise. More details can be found in the full Thanet Compact Disputes Procedure booklet.

Step 1: Informal

The organisations concerned will try to resolve the matter(s) between them, as in the spirit of the Compact, without an external source (TCIG).

Step 2: Investigation

A panel would be formed of four Compact Champions drawn equally from both Sectors (excluding anyone who may be linked with the organisations involved) via their TCIG membership, to consider the dispute and to try and reach an agreeable outcome for those involved.

Stage 3: Appeal

In this instance, there will need to be an Extraordinary Meeting of the TCIG to hear the appeal. The TCIG will consider the recommendations given by the panel and make the decision as to whether a breach to the Codes of Practice has been made.

Stage 4: Alternatives

If the situation is still unresolved following Stage 3, the complainant will be advised of an alternative route of resolving the problem.

Stage 5: Supervision

The annual review undertaken by the TCIG will report on any complaints or disputes made in that year and their resulting outcomes.

Examples of Compact Working

Thanet District Council & Citizens Advice Bureau

Thanet District Council and Thanet District Citizen's Advice Bureau are working together to assist mutual customers to make affordable payments of rent and council tax arrears. Senior staff meet to discuss protocols, and council staff have the opportunity to share training and to shadow CAB staff in order to build trust and confidence between the organisations.

CVS & Thanet District Council

After the collapse of the East Kent CVS due to funding difficulties, various other Third Sector organisations remained in a Council leased building and were being charged non-domestic business rates which could not be paid. Following a lengthy series of negotiations a resolution was reached between Thanet District Council and the CVS which enabled the CVS tenants to remain in the building, including a considerable saving being negotiated in regards to outstanding business rates until the end of the lease. The Compact was an invaluable reference point which enabled this process to achieve a satisfactory outcome for all parties.

What is Thanet Compact?

- Thanet Compact is a written agreement between the statutory sector and third sector.
- Organisations that are in agreement that the way local groups and bodies work together can or should be improved, demonstrate this by becoming a signatory to Thanet Compact's commitments and principles.
- The commitments and principles of the Thanet Compact are values that govern the way in which the involved parties should work together.
- All groups who are signatories to Thanet Compact are referred to as "partners", all are treated equally and should find because of the commitments laid out in the Thanet Compact mutual advantage to their organisation.



The Thanet Compact Vision

All partners to the Thanet Compact:

- Share the common objective of working for the benefit of Thanet's communities, and recognise the added value of working in partnership towards common goals and objectives.
- Are committed to recognising the importance of sustaining the provision of services.
- Value the distinct, but complimentary, roles that are undertaken by Thanet's statutory and third sectors.
- Recognise that the voluntary sector is a vital component of a democratic society because an independent third sector is fundamental to the well-being of our society.
- Agree that working together improves policy development, builds stronger relationships and can enhance the delivery and design of programmes and services for the benefit of Thanet's residents.
- Are committed to the promotion of equal opportunities in every aspect of their work, for all people, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, marital status, sexuality, age, religious or political beliefs.

Thanet Compact Codes of Practice Continued

Consultation & Policy Development Code **(Reference page 15 in Thanet Compact):**

- ✓ Consult Third Sector organisations in good time on any issues that are likely to affect them especially those financial in nature and particularly new roles or responsibilities for the sector that may impact on their service users.
- ✓ Remain sensitive to resource implication for Third Sector organisations, of participating in consultation exercises and explore alternative methods of obtaining feedback.

Resources Code (pg 17):

- ✓ Keep funding and grants processes simple and transparent. Allowing adequate time for funding bids and providing a timetable of processes and a contact point plus phone number information and advice.
- ✓ Respond to the Third Sector's need for greater financial stability to enable it to meet the needs of the local people and fulfil it's potential, by developing three year funding where possible.

Thanet Compact Codes of Practice

Communication & Working in Partnership

(Reference page 13 in Thanet Compact):

- ✓ Recognise that the Third Sector has an in-depth knowledge, which is valuable in policy, service delivery and development decision making.
- ✓ Encourage staff, councillors and/or board members to understand how the Third Sector operates.

Volunteering & Community Groups Code

(Reference page 19 in Thanet Compact):

- ✓ Recognise and promote the use of community owned assets, including land and property, as a basis for community development and enterprise at a local level.
- ✓ Improve access to support necessary for the maintenance and development of Third Sector infrastructure and networking.

Our Joint Endeavours

All our partners agree to:

- Listen to each other and act appropriately.
- Promote the mutual understanding of roles and an appreciation of the constraints that face both sectors.
- Work together to enhance accountability, objectivity and transparency.
- Present information fairly and to respect confidentiality where needed.
- Encourage resolutions of conflicts via the Thanet Compact Disputes procedure if negotiations break down.
- Actively engage with the ongoing development of the Thanet Compact so that it remains a live document which is relevant to all.

Thanet Compact's Principles

- Improving community working and volunteering.
- The promotion of partnerships.
- Using available resources effectively.
- Improving working relationships for the benefit of our community.



How does Thanet Compact Work?

- The Thanet Compact is as strong as you make it. The more bodies that become signatories and endeavour to work to the Thanet Compact principles and commitments, the easier it will be to see them work in practice.
- There is a yearly action plan produced by the Thanet Compact Implementation Group (TCIG) which outlines how and when elements of the Thanet Compact will be implemented.
- On the back of the annual action plan, an annual report will be produced by the members of the TCIG to give awareness of the progress that has been made.
- Compact Champions are an important part of making the Thanet Compact work. These Champions sit in each signatory organisation to implement its principles into their everyday working lives and ensure that all staff and colleagues understand the meaning of the Compact and its principles.
- Champions will receive training on their role from CASE Kent and TVCSF and have an annual meeting to share experiences and ideas on how to move forward.
- Any statutory or third sector organisation can sign up to the Thanet Compact at any time by contacting:

The Compact Secretariat
Thanet Compact Implementation Group
The Old Town Hall
Market Place
Margate
Kent CT9 1EU