

Creating Better Outcomes for Children & Young People in Hartlepool & Stockton- On-Tees



Compact Agreement

“Developing a shared set of principles to improve the outcomes and lives of children and young people across Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees”



2019 - 2021

Introduction

The Compact provides the framework for organisations from health, local authority and the voluntary and community sector to work together across Hartlepool and Stockton to improve outcomes for children and young people.

All partners have been involved in the development of this compact and have therefore expressed an intention to work effectively together in the same spirit as the agreement was developed. It is noted that the agreement is not legally binding.

The aim is for organisations to come together, bringing their individual knowledge, resources and expertise to explore and overcome collective issues relating to improving services and outcomes for children & young people.

The success of this local compact will be measured by:

- Having measurable performance data in the programme of work
- Integrating the views of children and young people in everything we do
- Integrating the view of parent carers in everything we do

All organisations who are party to this Compact agreement have agreed to adhere to the stipulations provided within this agreement. Each organisation has its own governance structure which must be adhered to as part of the decision making process.

A children's priorities integrated working group will oversee the programme of work and ensure that the principles outlined in the Compact are adhered to.

Work on the Compact will not replace existing work streams and will, where possible, enhance ongoing pieces of work.

Areas of work

This Compact will provide the framework for work across all areas of services for children and young people where there is more than one strategic partner involved in the commissioning or delivery of a service.

The Children's Priorities Integrated Working Group has identified two initial key areas of work where the remit spans all organisation who have signed up to the Compact:

- 1) Special Educational Needs (SEND)
- 2) Mental health & wellbeing

These areas have been identified as priorities because these are key strategic areas where children and young people hit a different part of the system.



Strategic goals

Although priority areas of work have been identified, the Children's Priorities Integrated Working Group have agreed that there is a set of overarching strategic goals which will be applied to these and future areas of work.

- Children and young people can access support to meet their needs at the earliest opportunity
- CYP know how to access support
- Parent Carers have a responsibility to access support for their children
- Services are commissioned to meet needs and provide value for money
- Quality services are commissioned and are effectively managed

Developing the Compact

“Effective partnerships are built on trust, transparency, integrity and honesty”

Bringing organisations together to improve services for children and young people is complex. All organisations have their own cultures and agendas. To work effectively together, we have to, in essence, leave those complexities behind and agree a set of principles to work too.

Principles

- Collectively, the Children's Priorities Integrated Working Group have agreed the following set of principles:
- Measurable Differences – being able to demonstrate that what we are working on is making a difference
- Value for Money – efficient & effective use of a collective resource
- Children & Young People focused – putting the child, young person and their family at the centre of our work programme, above the needs of the individual organisation
- Equality between Partners – recognising both the successes and challenges of each organisation
- Learn from success and failure – building on what works well and not being afraid to stop a service that cannot demonstrate it is effective
- Effective and high quality communication between partners with shared accountability

Behaviours

- Respect confidentiality of any information shared
- Be committed to attending meetings, and to have a named deputy where attendance is not possible to allow for consistency
- Recognising that the public sector and VCSE are accountable in different ways
- Look for evidence-based solutions, not being afraid to be open minded and 'think out of the box'
- Understand each other's constraints and recognise conflicting priorities
- Be mutually supportive but constructively challenge where and when appropriate

Commitments

“Collective responsibility – let’s make this happen by having the best approach not the easiest approach”

All partners to this Compact seek to adhere to the following commitments:

- Accountability – all partners will hold each other to account for non-delivery, recognising individual challenges
- Effectiveness – a programme of review will be put in place
- Outcomes & Evidence – a commitment to developing outcome focused, evidence based sustainable services
- Grappling with difficult issues – to work to seek solutions despite the challenges
- Honest approach to finances – transparency around changes or challenges to funding
- Systematic/co-ordinated change – a recognition that for a significant impact to be felt, there needed to be whole system changes
- Impact assessments – developed as a partnership before reallocating funds, reshaping services and funding decisions being made
- Dispute resolution – with hard decisions come disagreements, however, all disputes will be resolved in partnership
- Resources – all organisations are responsible for exploring all funding opportunities to expand the financial pot which is available. Where the VCSE can access funding not available to statutory organisations, support will be provided to maximise chances of success to enable innovation

Recognising risk

It has to be acknowledged that achieving the level of change which is required to transform local services for children and young people, comes with a degree of risk. The Compact acknowledges these risks:

- Reducing resources across the system
- Not understanding the 'demand' picture
- The political landscape
- Being reactive instead of proactive
- Lack of connectivity across some partners; schools due to academisation etc.

Ensuring the Compact is sustainable

The partnership will agree:

- Dispute resolution
- Escalating points and criteria
- Timescales for review
- Each organisation will have its own complaints process and governing body should the matter need to be referred