

Signed, sealed, let's deliver!

An important gathering took place on November 5 and it had nothing to do with fireworks, bonfires or treacle toffee! This was the official signing of the North West Regional Compact. A public statement of how important it is the third and public sectors work together to set alight the partnership working between the regional third and public sector in the North West.

So will good sparks fly? Now signed and sealed, the organisations who have committed to it need to deliver by making the principles and commitments real.

The Regional Compact Working Group (whose membership is comprised of a representatives from the signatory organisations or agencies) has developed a draft Action Plan for, well, action! The Working Group will meet in December to agree this Action Plan. This Plan isn't just about doing new things – some of it is about building on work already happening: Co-ordinating, linking and adding together what is already talking place.

Part of the draft Action Plan, and the first thing this Working Group have already definitely agreed to do is to develop a North West Funding, Commissioning and Procurement Code.

This is because when we were consulting on the Compact – issues around full cost recovery, prompt payments and (where possible) reducing the bureaucracy around applications were key issue that came out loud and clear. Building on what we have already from earlier consultations, we can identify other issues that need to be considered and possible actions to tackle them (e.g. levels of public insurance needed for some contracts, recoverable VAT).

The Compact Working Group will try to the development of this Code a partnership between the public and third sector. To do this we need you!

If you want to take part keep a watching eye on VSNW bulletins and the GONW website. Any examples of good practice in commissioning between the third and public sector is important - if you know of any then let us know!

Go to the GONW website

<http://www.gos.gov.uk/gonw/PeopleSustainableCommunities/Thirdsector/762183/?a=42496>

- Get your very own signed copy of the North West Regional Compact!
- See what GONW is doing as a partner to the Regional Compact
- Look who was there - the official photo from the signing

Go to our Youtube site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LE9j8At9SZ4>

- Watch the welcome address for the Compact signing from Liz Meek (Regional Director GONW)

If you want more information about the Regional Compact or the work of GONW with the third sector, please get in touch 0161 952 4329 or

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Acronyms explained!

- NWDA North West Development Agency
- GONW Government Office North West
- SENW Social Enterprise North West
- 4NW 4 North West
- NHS NW National Health Service North West (also known as the SHA or Strategic Health Authority)
- VSNW Voluntary Sector North West