



Using the Midlothian Compact

What is The Compact?

The Midlothian Compact is a framework for partnership working between Midlothian Council and the Midlothian voluntary sector. It was formally adopted in March 2008.

The Compact outlines the commitments of both sides in working together under the following headings:

- Roles and responsibilities;
- Access;
- Partnership Working;
- Resources;
- Implementation.

Copies of the Compact can be downloaded from the Midlothian Council website (www.midlothian.gov.uk) the Partnership/Community Planning section of the Midlothian Voluntary Action (MVA) website (www.mvacvs.org.uk) or contact MVA directly for a copy.

How is the Compact monitored?

There is a Compact Monitoring Group which reviews the success of the Compact on an annual basis. The Monitoring Group has representation from both the voluntary sector and the Council. If you are interested in joining the Monitoring Group please contact MVA.

The Monitoring Group reports to the Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF), and to the Improving Opportunities Midlothian group of the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership.

What do I do if I think the Compact has been breached, or is in danger of being breached?

You can bring the breach to the attention of Midlothian Voluntary Action; it may be that other organisations have the same concern, and we can raise the matter with the Council on behalf of the Voluntary Sector Forum.

Alternatively, you can raise the breach directly with the Council. To do this, write to the relevant Council officer; in the first instance the relevant officer will be the one with responsibility for the area of work where the breach has occurred, and copy the letter to Alasdair Mathers, Regeneration and Social Policy Manager, who is the Council's lead officer on Compact issues.

State the following in your letter:

- Note that Midlothian Council has signed up to a range of commitments to the voluntary sector through the Midlothian Compact;
- Tell the Council Officer the Heading and Bullet Point that you think has been breached;
- Ask the Council Officer to respond in writing addressing your concern;
- Send a copy of your correspondence, if you wish, to the Compact Monitoring Group, c/o MVA, to feed into the monitoring process, and to Alasdair Mathers, Regeneration and Social Policy Manager.

**What will happen next?**

You should receive a letter acknowledging your enquiry within 10 working days. The Officer you contact should raise the matter with your line manager and supply a response addressing the points raised in the letter. Alternatively he/she may suggest that you meet and discuss the issue.

What do I do if I am not happy with the Council's response?

If you are unhappy with the response that you receive you can request that the matter is examined by the Compact Monitoring Group.

Further information and contacts

Compact Monitoring Group
c/o Midlothian Voluntary Action
4/6 White Hart Street
Dalkeith EH22 1AE
0131 663 9471
info@mvacvs.org.uk

Alasdair Mathers (Lead Officer on Compact issues)
Regeneration and Social Policy Manager
Midlothian Council
Education Division
Fairfield House
Dalkeith
0131 271 3438
alasdair.mathers@midlothian.gov.uk

There is also a Compact governing the relationship between the Scottish Government and the voluntary sector. It can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/02/18723/31449>