

The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Compact

A Partnership Agreement between the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and the voluntary services councils of north Wales on behalf of third sector organisations in north Wales
















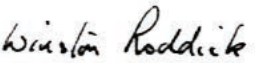
Introduction

This Compact is a partnership agreement between the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) and the six north Wales voluntary services councils on behalf of the third sector in North Wales and has been agreed by the responsible officers for the respective organisations.

It provides a framework to improve engagement, develop shared aims and objectives, mutual respect and understanding and will assist the Commissioner and third sector partners to improve the quality of services for the people of North Wales.

The success of the compact relies on the commitment of both parties. Collaboration can strengthen existing working relationships and at a time of economic pressure this can enable all parties to react to future challenges. Working more closely will enable organisations to maximise resources and knowledge and so become more effective and efficient.

The Parties to this agreement are:

PARTNER ORGANISATION		CHAIRS	SIGNATURE
Medrwn Môn, Anglesey		Dilys Shaw	
Community & Voluntary Support Conwy		Maggie Kelly	
Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council		Derek Barker	
Flintshire Local Voluntary Council		Michael Dixon	
Mantell Gwynedd		Gwen Griffith	
Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW)		John Leece Jones	
North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner		Winston Roddick QC CB	

This Compact was agreed by the partners on 1st April 2014. It will be reviewed and revised in March 2015.

The Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner is the local governing body for policing in north Wales. The Commissioner has an overarching duty to secure an efficient and effective police force, which demonstrates value for money and, above all, cuts crime.

The Commissioner has four main duties, which are to:

- Set out the priorities for policing in north Wales
- Decide the budget for North Wales Police
- Hold the Chief Constable to account, and to
- Listen and respond to the public's views on policing

In order to fulfill these duties, the Commissioner has a range of powers and responsibilities including:

- Being accountable to the electorate and representing the public in policing matters
- Preparing a Police and Crime Plan which sets out the strategic direction and objectives for policing in north Wales
- Setting the policing 'precept', which is the part of local council tax that goes towards policing
- Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending
- Holding the Force to account, through the Chief Constable, for the delivery of police services
- Appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable
- Overseeing complaints against North Wales Police
- Commissioning community safety services and projects in the area
- Ensuring that public priorities are acted upon, victims are consulted and that the most vulnerable individuals are not overlooked
- Ensuring value for money

The role of the County Voluntary Services Councils

The six County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) will be co-signatories of the Compact. They are the umbrella organisations that support, promote and advise local voluntary and community organisations. They support voluntary action by supporting volunteering, advising on good practice, providing information on funding sources along with a wide range of other services.

The term 'Third Sector' as referred to in this document incorporates voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests including UK wide charities and their local branches, county based organisations, informal community groups, social enterprises, co-operatives and self-help support groups.

Within the Compact the CVCs will give opportunities for the voice of the Third Sector and their service users to be heard and ensure recognition of the significant impact that voluntary organisations contribute to community safety and cohesion.



Aim of the Compact

This Compact aims to develop the partnership between the Commissioner and the third sector in north Wales to promote community safety and reduce crime to contribute to north Wales being a safe and vibrant place to live.

The Compact will

- Establish good engagement and communication on a two-way basis so that the County Voluntary Councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner have a robust mechanism to consult with the third sector.
- To ensure the third sector are able to influence the planning and development when addressing local community safety issues.
- Promote understanding and respect between the parties by creating a clear structure for dialogue and engagement.
- Create effective joint working to benefit the people of north Wales by bringing together similar organisations and helping them to share best practice.

Values and Principles

This Compact is underpinned by the shared agreement of the following values

Respect

Honesty

Fairness

Integrity

Adhering to these values will ensure

- Respect for and valuing contribution by all partners irrespective of size
- Respect for the independence of third sector organisations
- Respect for the strategic and regional nature of the Police and Crime Commissioner's role
- Openness in commissioning processes
- Honesty about capability and capacity to deliver services
- Operating fair and transparent processes
- Making fair decisions based upon clear and transparent process and procedure

Objectives

1. Maintain a positive relationship by operating effective engagement strategies between the Commissioner and the third sector.
2. Use the expertise and frontline knowledge of third sector organisations to help deal with and reduce crime and disorder in north Wales.
3. Always strive for excellence, equality of access, sustainable development, and value for money.



Community Safety and Partnership Working

The Police and Crime Commissioner recognises the need to work closely with partners to secure solutions to crime and disorder issues. The Commissioner works alongside public organisations such as North Wales Police, the Local Health Board, Fire and Rescue Service, local authorities, partners in the criminal justice field and other key stakeholders including local communities, to achieve common goals more effectively. The Commissioner's role also involves working in partnership with the 4 Community Safety Partnerships in north Wales, the North Wales Safer Communities Board, and the North Wales Regional Leadership Board. The Commissioner undertakes to work in partnership with the six north Wales voluntary services councils.

Partnership working can involve:

- working in partnership to resolve neighbourhood problems such as anti-social behaviour
- providing more effective services to victims
- providing support to victims of domestic abuse so they have the confidence and opportunity to seek help and support
- improving the physical environment so that it is less conducive to crime
- providing services to those who misuse substances but who want help to reduce the harm they are doing to themselves, their families and our communities, and
- aiding offenders to rehabilitate and make a positive contribution to society.

Third sector organisations also play a crucial role in helping the Commissioner to address these issues.

Responsibilities

The Police and Crime Commissioner and County Voluntary Councils recognise the role and responsibilities of each other. In particular the Police and Crime Commissioner recognises:

- The valuable contribution that voluntary and community organisations make to community safety
- That CVCs can promote, facilitate and influence best practice with the aim of maintaining high standards of governance. However, voluntary and community organisations are independent organisations who determine their own priorities and manage their own affairs, including the right to campaign.
- That voluntary and community organisations operate within the principles upon which they were founded.
- That individual CVCs can assist the Commissioner in engagement via the development of consultation activities.

The County Voluntary Councils on behalf of the third sector recognise:

- The legal and financial framework within which the PCC operates.
- That the PCC is scrutinised by an independent Police and Crime Panel.
- The importance of the PCC's duties to:
 - Set out the priorities for policing in north Wales
 - Decide the budget for North Wales Police
 - Hold the Chief Constable to account
 - Listen and respond to the public's views on policing



Small Grant Funding

There are a number of third sector and community groups who run projects and innovative schemes to help cut crime and make our communities safer. The Police and Crime Commissioner wishes to show financial support to some of these organisations. Therefore The Commissioner has established a “participatory budget grant funding scheme”. This scheme enables our communities to make decisions on projects they feel should be given financial support. The scheme operates by inviting applications for funding by organisations. Those applications are then shortlisted and opened up to public vote. This approach ensures the decision-making power for such funding is in the hands of the public. Bids for this funding are opened each spring. Opening dates are notified to the public in the local press and on the website of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Consultation and Policy Appraisal

Organisations have the right to challenge on matters that affect them. Furthermore the Police and Crime Commissioner may from time to time consult with third sector organisations and or the voluntary services councils who represent them on particular issues, projects or policies. It is agreed that such consultation will be:

- Appropriate and relevant for the target group.
- Genuine and transparent, making clear aspects that may be changed and those which cannot.
- Accessible and equally available to both larger and smaller organisations.
- Timely and prior to decisions being made.

It is acknowledged that good practice is to allow 13 weeks for consultation excluding bank and other public holidays prior to decision making, and in the case of larger decisions such as the Police and Crime Plan, this will be the minimum amount of consultation time. However, with some smaller policy issues or consultations where the Police and Crime Commissioner is subject to the time scale of another organisation (such as national government) it may not be possible to allocate this amount of time. The Police and Crime Commissioner will always strive to allow the maximum amount of time possible to facilitate proper and clear consultation and will do everything possible to mitigate the impact of shorter consultation periods.

Communication and Engagement

The Police and Crime Commissioner will operate within the Participation Cymru ten principles of engagement (see Appendix A). Furthermore the Commissioner is establishing a communication and engagement strategy which details the principles of planned engagement and communication activity undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Commissioner’s liaison with third sector organisations forms part of this activity and specifically the Commissioner agrees with third sector organisations to carry out the following arrangements.



Annual Engagement Event

- Each year prior to the publication of the new Police and Crime Plan, one of the six north Wales Voluntary Services Councils¹ will, in rotation, provide a suitable venue and facilities to host an engagement meeting between the Commissioner and all relevant third sector organisations in north Wales². This event will be open to all and not restricted to organisations affiliated to the voluntary services councils.
- The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner will attend the event to engage with third sector organisations. At the event the Commissioner will:
 - o Review the previous year's police and crime plan and objectives and give an update about progress made against these.
 - o Share planned police and crime objectives for the coming year and outline immediate priorities.
 - o Take and respond to questions on each of the above.
 - o Take and respond to general questions about policing and crime in north Wales.
 - o Agree the Compact for the coming year.
- The event will be recorded and feedback shared by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will, where required, support and assist the voluntary service councils to make necessary preparations to host the event.

Visits to individual third sector organisations

It is important for the Commissioner to gain an insight into the frontline activities of third sector organisations in order to effectively understand demand for their services and how they are delivered. Therefore, the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to visit with various individual third sector organisations in locations where their services are delivered. The visits will extend to organisations who are engaged in community safety activity and will allow the Commissioner to see the frontline issues they face and the impact of their services on the community. The Commissioner undertakes to meet a minimum of 6 organisations per year. Organisations who wish to be considered for a visit are invited to complete the form at Appendix B and return it to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Website – Third Sector Page

In accordance with the communication and engagement strategy, one of the Commissioner's primary tools for sharing information with the public is to make it available on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner website. In addition the Commissioner has established a page of his website dedicated to communicating information to the Third Sector. This includes providing feedback from his engagement activities.

¹Community and Voluntary Support Conwy, Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council, Medrwn Mon, Mantell Gwynedd, Flintshire Local Voluntary Council, AVOW – Association of Voluntary Services Wrexham

²"Relevant organisations" refers to third sector organisations whose remit is around community safety, crime prevention, crime reduction offender support/management, victim, witness or family support etc.



Third Sector Contact Database

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner maintains a database of community contacts in order to communicate relevant pieces of information with people in local communities. All third sector organisations are recommended to register their details with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in order to receive updates and relevant information about local issues and events from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Equality and Diversity

Both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the third sector will abide by the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. The Commissioner undertakes to carry out his public sector duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and promote good relations between people. Furthermore the Commissioner will act in accordance with the equality principles and priorities set out in the North Wales Police and North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Equality Plan. Service parity will be provided to both welsh and english languages.

Disputes and Concerns

If the Police and Crime Commissioner or County Voluntary Councils, either collectively or individually, have concerns regarding the implementation of the Compact, they agree to take part in mediation meetings for resolution.

Review

On an annual basis the Police and Crime Commissioner and the six voluntary councils will review the performance and effectiveness of the Compact.

Relevant Policies

Below is a list of the Policies that underpin and support this Compact Agreement.

[Police and Crime Plan](#)

[Participation Cymru – Engagement Principles](#)

[North Wales Police and North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Equality Plan](#)

[Correspondence Policy](#)

[Police and Crime Commissioner Communication and Engagement Strategy](#)



Appendix A

Participation Cymru – 10 Principles of Engagement

1. Engagement is effectively designed to make a difference

Engagement gives a real chance to influence policy, service design and delivery from an early stage.

2. Encourage and enable everyone affected to be involved, if they so choose.

The people affected by an issue or change are included in opportunities to engage as an individual or as part of a group or community, with their views both respected and valued.

3. Engagement is planned and delivered in a timely and appropriate way

The engagement process is clear, communicated to everyone in a way that's easy to understand within a reasonable timescale, and the most suitable method/s for those involved is used.

4. Work with relevant partner organisations

Organisations should communicate with each other and work together wherever possible to ensure that people's time is used effectively and efficiently.

5. The information provided will be jargon free, appropriate and understandable

People are well placed to take part in the engagement process because they have easy access to relevant information that is tailored to meet their needs.

6. Make it easier for people to take part

People can engage easily because any barriers for different groups of people are identified and addressed.

7. Enable people to take part effectively

Engagement processes should try to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of all participants.

8. Engagement is given the right resources and support to be effective

Appropriate training, guidance and support are provided to enable all participants to effectively engage, including both community participants and staff.

9. People are told the impact of their contribution

Timely feedback is given to all participants about the views they expressed and the decisions or actions taken as a result; methods and form of feedback should take account of participants' preferences.

10. Learn and share lessons to improve the process of engagement

People's experience of the process of engagement should be monitored and evaluated to measure its success in engaging people and the effectiveness of their participation; lessons should be shared and applied in future engagements.

These Principles were developed by Participation Cymru working with TPAS Cymru, under the guidance of the Participation Cymru partnership. Endorsed by The First Minister of Wales, The Right Hon. Carwyn Jones AM on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Further guidance on the National Principles can be found at

www.participationcymru.org.uk

March 2011



Appendix B

North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Application for visit to Third/Voluntary Sector Organisation by the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

FULL NAME OF ORGANISATION

CONTACT NAME

ADDRESS (IN WHAT PREMISES/LOCATION ARE SERVICES PROVIDED)

TELEPHONE NUMBER

EMAIL

WEBSITE DETAILS

PURPOSE/ROLE OF ORGANISATION

HOW DOES THE ORGANISATION IMPACT ON CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC ISSUES YOU WOULD LIKE TO RAISE WITH THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER DURING HIS VISIT?

On occasions the OPCC may notify local media about visits undertaken by the PCC.

If you do not want any publicity around his visit to your organisation please tick here.

Please return form to: The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay, LL29 8AW
or by email to opcc@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

