



The ABMU/Third Sector Compact

1. Purpose

This Compact sets out how the Health Board and Third Sector (the Partners) want to work together to improve services for local people. Its value comes from the commitment of organisations that sign up to working together to deliver better services. The ABMU Compact builds on the good work carried out as a result of existing local Compacts in the ABMU area, in particular Local Service Board commitments to develop these arrangements.

The ABMU Compact will focus on a number of overarching principles and shared commitments. These will then form the basis of three more specific Compact arrangements, one in each Locality area, referring to specific Locality policies, e.g. HSCWB Strategies, Community Plan etc. It is also proposed that each will correspond to the overarching themes set out in this ABMU Compact.

2. Shared Principles and Commitments

The following shared principles include key commitments, where Localities will then add specific detail to each, in partnership with their Local Service Boards. It is also envisaged that Localities will develop Codes of Practice attached to each of the overarching principles, therefore taking account of local priorities.

Partnership working, joint events and activities

Developing and improving services together builds stronger relationships, cross-border learning and services that are more likely to meet people's needs.

- Partners will work to create a shared strategic vision for the delivery of services.
- The Regional Third Sector Health, Social care and Wellbeing Network will stimulate discussions between ABMU and Third Sector, where joint events and activities could be planned and developed.

- The Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) is a Board Advisory Group in ABMU Health Board and will also be used as a partnership mechanism with the Third Sector, as the membership comprises Third Sector Network representatives.

Communication

Clear communication is essential to both effective joint working and the delivery of high quality services.

- Information will be produced in clear language, and in appropriate formats as appropriate.
- Partners agree to share information and respect its confidentiality where appropriate.

Mutual respect

Strong and lasting relationships are built on honesty, openness and trust. ABMU Health Board and the Third Sector have their own set of responsibilities and duties, and within this, each organisation is different and brings different knowledge and resources to developing services. Diversity is therefore a strength and both partners will respect and value it.

- Partners will acknowledge each other's contribution.
- Partners will work to develop a better understanding of the core aims, activities and responsibilities of other partners.

Planning, Consultation and User participation

The Third Sector is an effective route to user and community views. If both partners are to accurately reflect these views, they need time to engage and consult with those they represent.

- Partners will work together to draw up strategic plans.
- A minimum consultation period of 12 weeks will be given when a major service change is proposed, unless shorter timescales are agreed in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's guidance on Consultation and Public Engagement or locally agreed timescales with the Community Health Council (CHC).

- A service change will only be determined 'major' as result of discussions with CHC and as result of the Health Board's Equality Impact Assessment process.

Volunteering

The partners recognise the important role played by volunteers in their communities and their commitment to making a significant contribution to community well-being and improved public service delivery. Volunteers help to develop, deliver and sustain many local projects, initiatives and services. The Compact will support, develop and promote volunteering whilst acknowledging volunteers themselves need to be sustained through effective support mechanisms.

Finance and Funding Responsibilities

Individual organisations are responsible for their actions and the services they provide. Where ABMU Health Board funds a Third Sector organisation, it has a duty to ensure that this public money is spent appropriately and ensures value for money.

- It is envisaged each Locality will agree a Funding Code of Practice based on the National Principles that will guide all partners involved in funding with the voluntary sector and will be standardised where possible.

Equality and Diversity

Partners have a duty to promote equality and diversity.

- Partners will seek to ensure fair access to their services, employment opportunities and volunteer positions.

Quality Services

Organisations have different but complementary roles. Both partners want to provide the highest quality services for their users.

- Partners will take the views of service users and carers into account when planning services, and undertake appropriate monitoring and evaluation of services.

- Partners will work towards appropriate quality standards and legislative requirements.

Workforce Development

Both partners are committed to developing their workforce for the future, supporting employees with training and development opportunities to help them meet future challenges. The partners are therefore keen to maximise the impact of these resources and will encourage shared training programmes and opportunities particularly where collaborative or integrated services are being developed. Whilst this happens already in some areas, more will be done.

Working within the Compact

If an organisation cannot do something that is set out in this Compact they will explain why, and how they plan to comply with this Compact in the future.

- Partners will promote and raise awareness of the Compact within their organisations.
- Partners will ensure their staff, volunteers and members are aware of the Compact through appropriate publicity.

3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This Compact has been designed to give an overview of the shared principles between ABMU Health Board and the Third Sector. Evaluation and Monitoring will be carried out twice a year via the **Third Sector Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Network (HSCN)**.

It is envisaged that each Locality will draw up detailed monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as part of the Locality-specific Compact development within Local Service Boards, based on their Codes of Practice.

The Compact will be reviewed for effectiveness **one year** from its inception.