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# Cumbria's GPs first to sign agreement with voluntary and community organisations

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## Cumbria's GPs first to sign agreement with voluntary and community organisations

Posted on Tuesday 30th October 2012

Lead GPs from Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are the first in the country to sign up to a 'compact' with local voluntary and community sector organisations.

The 'compact' or commitment states that Cumbria CCG will work closely with the voluntary sector Cumbria's Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) as a central point of communication.

It's hoped that this will make it easier for voluntary sector organisations to make contact and work with Cumbria CCG to deliver local services.

Dr Hugh Reeve, Clinical Chair of the Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "Cumbria has a vibrant voluntary sector that mirrors the community spirit seen in towns and villages across the county.

"As local GPs taking on more responsibility for the way health services are designed and resourced in Cumbria, we are very pleased to be the first Clinical Commissioning Group to sign up to this important compact."

Tom Elkins, National Compact Voice Manager, said: "It is fantastic that the Clinical Commissioning Group in Cumbria has signed up to their local Compact. The voluntary sector has a vital role in the new health landscape, through delivering local services or helping influence how health priorities are met. By working together like this, Cumbria is setting a positive example – we hope that many other areas will follow their lead."

Jozi Brown, Senior Representation Officer at Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service, said: "The Cumbria Compact is a set of principles and commitments that underpins good working relationships between the public sector and the community covering areas such as equality and diversity, public engagement and the allocating of resources.

"This is important because the compact provides a framework for partnership working and enables the public to influence the planning of services and decision making. The fact that the Clinical Commissioning Group has signed up to the agreement along with all the NHS Trusts in the county, Cumbria County Council, South Lakes District Council, Copeland Borough Council, and Carlisle City Council highlight the shared commitment towards communities in Cumbria and we hope this will encourage the remaining local authorities to sign up too.

"The Compact is now more relevant than ever. At a time when resources are scarce and services and structures are changing, it is vital that voluntary and statutory partners work effectively together to maximise benefit to local communities. The Compact underpins effective local partnerships and strengthens the contribution that voluntary and community sector organisations (VCS) can make to improving outcomes for local people. The Compact outlines a way of working that improves relationship for mutual advantage".

NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which is led by a group of seven Cumbrian based GPs will take over responsibility from NHS Cumbria, the primary care trust in April 2013 for commissioning local NHS health services.

This means Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group will decide how and where local NHS services should be delivered. 'Commissioning' means planning and purchasing NHS services for local people from hospital trusts and other organisations.

For more information on the 3rd sector compacts, please visit: [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk)

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