

WCVA Compact Survey 2010 for the Third Sector Partnership Council

1. Introduction

The annual survey of relationships between local government and the third sector has been conducted since before 2003. It is issued by WCVA for completion by County Voluntary Councils in consultation as necessary, at the request of, and for submission to, the Third Sector Partnership Council and for the benefit of the third sector in Wales.

The core questions are very similar each year to enable year on year comparisons.

In 2008, for the first time, the survey was done electronically, in seven logical parts, using www.surveymonkey.com. Hence, the data are available to County Voluntary Councils, the Third Sector Partnership Council and others interested in continuing to improve relationships between the third sector and the public sector. In 2010 it was decided, after consultation with County Voluntary Councils, to include questions on the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy.

The great advantage of making the data available in this way is that anyone can filter the responses according to his or her interests. The links to the data are given in Appendix A.

2. Findings from the Compact Survey 2010

1. There are compacts in 18 areas and new ones need to be agreed in Swansea, Newport and Bridgend. Rhondda Cynon Taff does not have one.
2. Where Joint Liaison Committees exist, there continues to be good representation from local government and Local Health Boards.
3. In all but one area the County Voluntary Council is a core member of the Local Service Board and 9 are involving other third sector bodies. However, sometimes the third sector has one representative whereas individual statutory bodies have two each.
4. In four areas the Local Service Board has taken over responsibility for the Compact and any action plan. It needs to be remembered that the LSB is primarily concerned with services, whereas the third sector has an active interest in such matters as campaigning and mutual support as well as in service provision. Hence, careful thought needs to be given as to whether it is appropriate for the LSB to be responsible for the Compact and whether it even has time to do that properly.
5. Codes of Funding Practice now exist in 11 areas, up from 6 last year, and there are 3 more in draft form. This remains a priority for the third sector.
6. Nearly all respondents consider the Local Service Board; partnerships; European funding; Health, Social Care and Wellbeing; volunteering; scrutiny and commissioning to be important. They are being addressed to varying degrees by Joint Liaison Committees.

7. Denbighshire, Wrexham and Neath Port Talbot all commented that the relationship with the local authority needs improvement. Others are expecting it to worsen in light of pending budget cuts. There is also uncertainty as a result of NHS reorganisation.

3. A commentary on the seven sections of the Compact Survey 2010

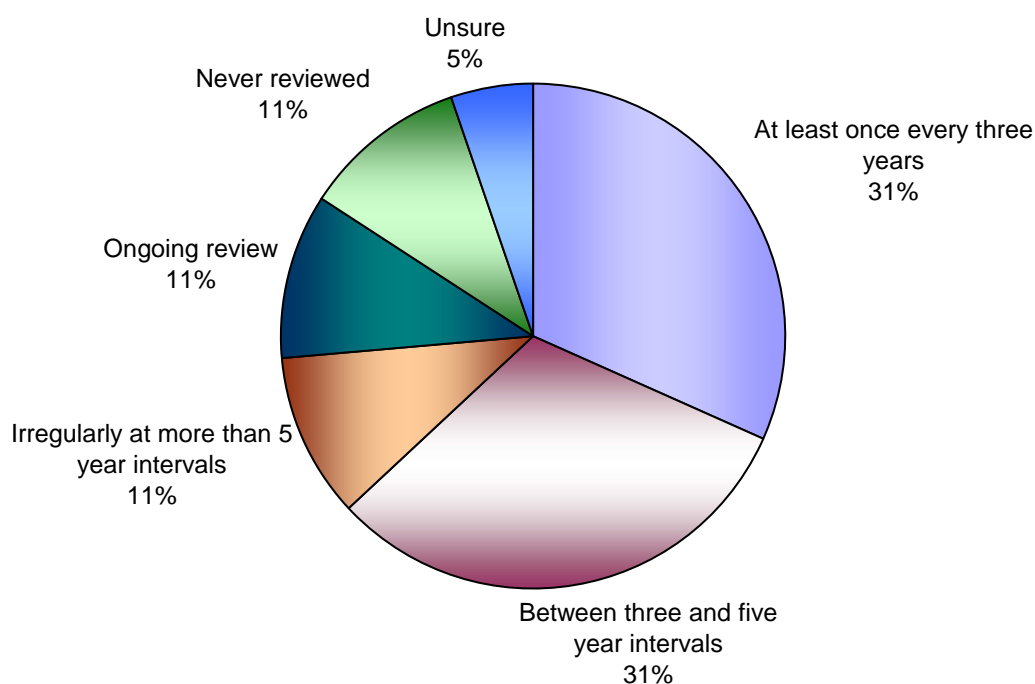
The Compact

1. The Compact is agreed and in place in 18 unitary authorities. In addition, the one in Newport remains a draft and subject to negotiation. In Swansea the Compact has been discussed over the last 3 years and in Bridgend new work has started on devising a Compact. There is no Compact in place in Rhondda Cynon Taff.
2. Some compacts include not only the unitary authority and the third sector, but other public sector organisations as follows:

additional parties to the local government compact		
Answer Options		Response Count
Police		2
Police Authority		1
Local Health Board		14
None		5
Other (please specify)		4
<i>answered question</i>		18
<i>skipped question</i>		3

3. The Compact has an action plan agreed by the Joint Liaison Committee in 14 unitary authority areas: Cardiff; Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil; Conwy; Wrexham; Caerphilly; Pembrokeshire; Powys; Neath Port Talbot; Blaenau Gwent; Carmarthenshire; Gwynedd; Denbighshire and Flintshire. Of these Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Caerphilly, Denbighshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Powys, Conwy, Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff have measurable targets. No other areas have action plans.
4. The Compact is reviewed and amended over various periods, with six areas reporting this happening at least every 3 years and two more reporting this as 'ongoing'. Six areas report this taking place at between 3 and 5 year intervals, two at intervals greater than 5 years, and two say it is never reviewed.

How often is the compact reviewed and amended?

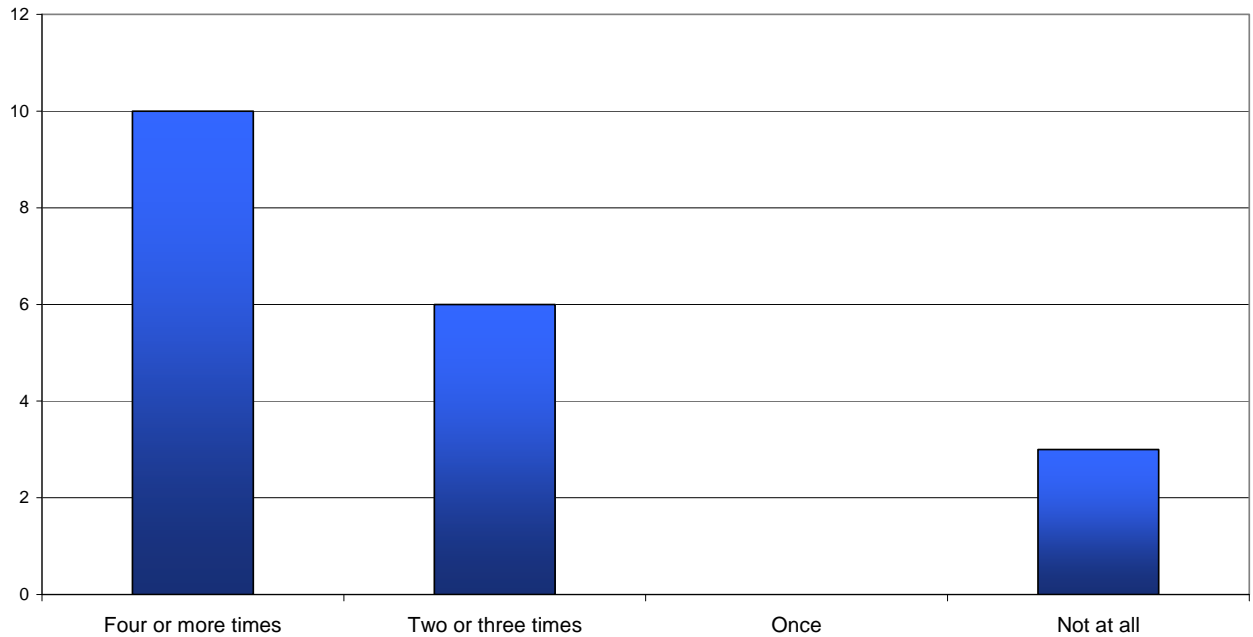


5. The third sector has no compacts with public sector bodies in any unitary authority area other than the one which includes local government.

Joint Liaison Committees (JLC)

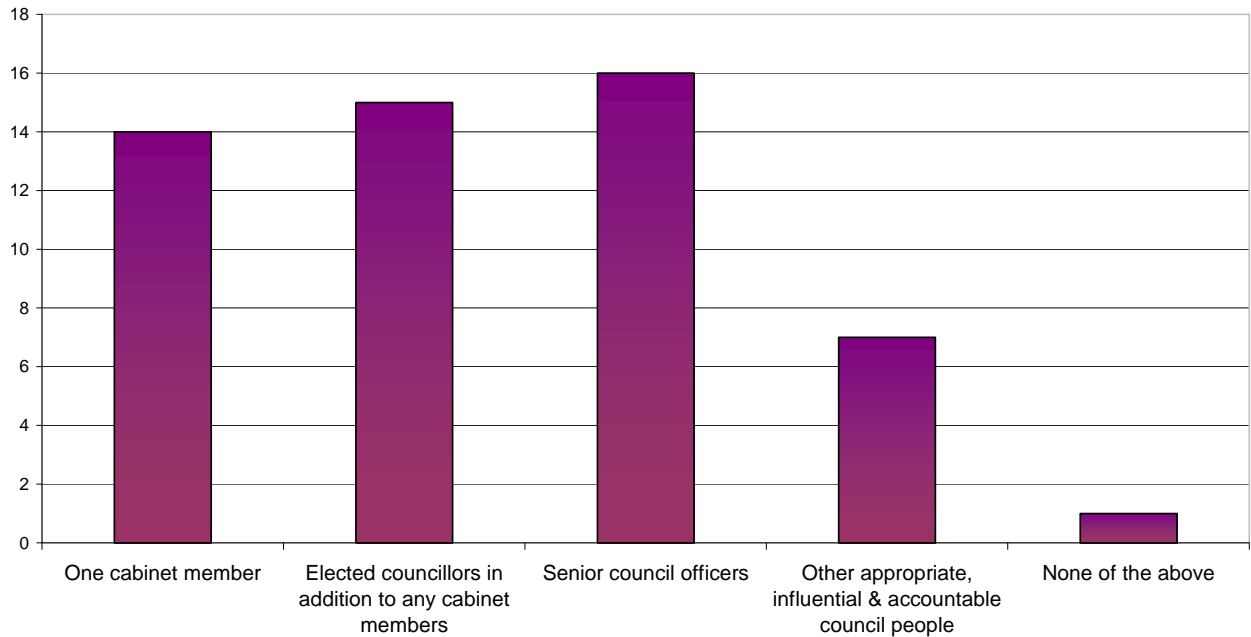
1. 15 unitary authority areas have a Joint Liaison Committee. Swansea, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Newport do not, and do not have an alternative arrangement. In Ceredigion the Joint Liaison Committee is currently under review to better fit with the Local Service Board and Scrutiny process. In Torfaen, the development of the Local Service Board Operational Group fulfils the role. In Monmouthshire, the Assistant Director of GAVO presents an annual report to the Stronger Communities Select Committee on relationships between the local authority and voluntary sector. In Bridgend, there are unofficial arrangements but a task and finish group has been set up to produce a new compact.
2. In 17 areas the Joint Liaison Committee or equivalent is the overarching interface between the local authority and the third sector.
3. The Joint Liaison Committee or equivalent has met 2 or more times in the last year in 15 areas, with 10 of these meeting 4 or more times.

How many times has any Joint Liaison Committee, or any alternative arrangement, met over the last year?



4. 17 Joint Liaison Committees or equivalents set their own terms of reference.
5. Where Joint Liaison Committees or equivalents exist, there is an action plan in 15 areas, based on their priorities. In addition, the action plan in Torfaen is being developed, and in Monmouthshire it is being considered by the Local Service Board working group set up to review the compact and its implementation across the county.
6. There is representation of local government by at least one cabinet member on 14 Joint Liaison Committees or equivalents. 15 areas have elected councillors, in addition to any cabinet members, and 16 have senior council officials. Some report additional representatives of such bodies as the Local Health Board.

Do the local government representatives on the Joint Liaison Committee, or equivalent group, include at least:



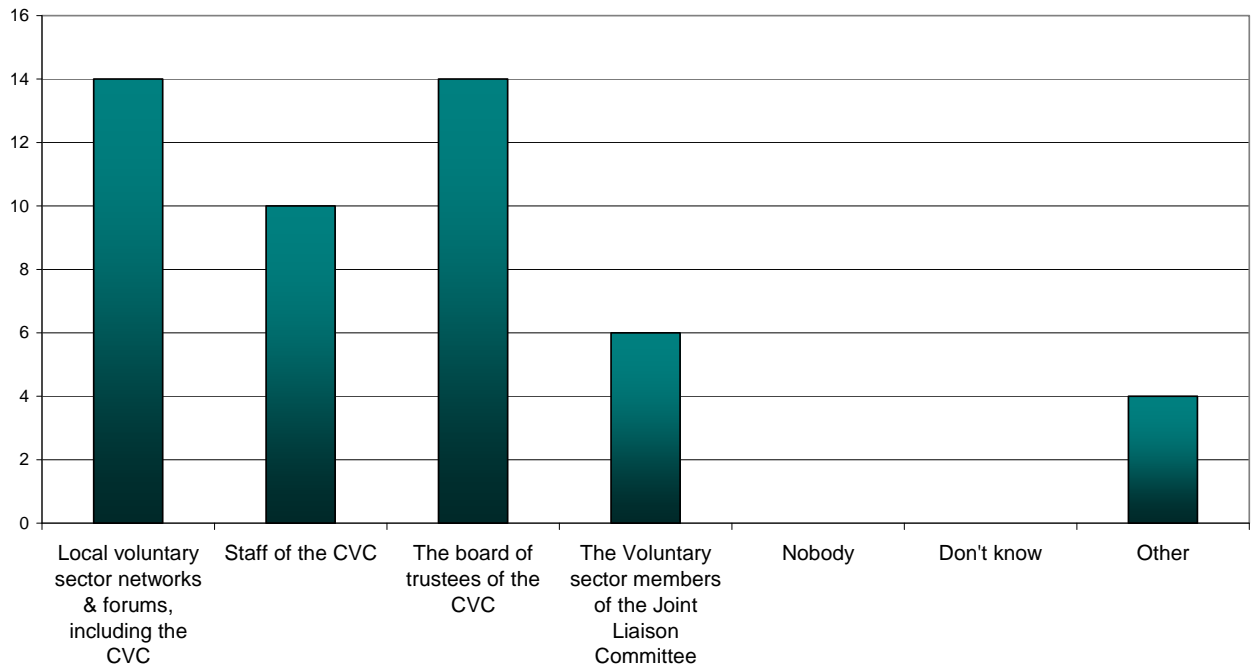
7. 12 areas report Local Health Board involvement in their Joint Liaison Committees and there is some representation by other statutory bodies such as the Police and Police Authority.
8. 13 areas report that representatives of the third sector are agreed by the wider sector. 12 areas elect representatives, 3 interview them and appoint as a result, 9 have reserved places for specific post holders and 3 report other means of appointing people. Clearly, some areas use a combination of these methods.
9. In 8 areas the trustees of the County Voluntary Council are involved in the selection of representatives to the Joint Liaison Committee and in 2 areas this will involve the staff of the County Voluntary Council. Also, 8 areas have the local voluntary sector networks engaged in the process.
10. In 17 areas the third sector representatives are perceived to be appropriate, influential and accountable. In 17 areas which have a Joint Liaison Committee or equivalent, agenda items are contributed by all partners.

Community Strategy

1. The method of involvement of the third sector in the Community Strategy is agreed in 9 unitary authority areas by the Joint Liaison Committee. These are: Anglesey, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Conwy, Denbighshire, Torfaen, Gwynedd, Merthyr Tydfil, and Caerphilly. Four areas do not have a Joint Liaison Committee or equivalent, and the remaining nine areas say involvement is not decided in this way.
2. In answer to the question ‘on behalf of the voluntary sector, who has endorsed the current Community Strategy?’ 14 areas say that this has been done by local voluntary sector networks and forums, including the County Voluntary Council. The board of trustees of the County Voluntary Council has endorsed it in 14 areas and

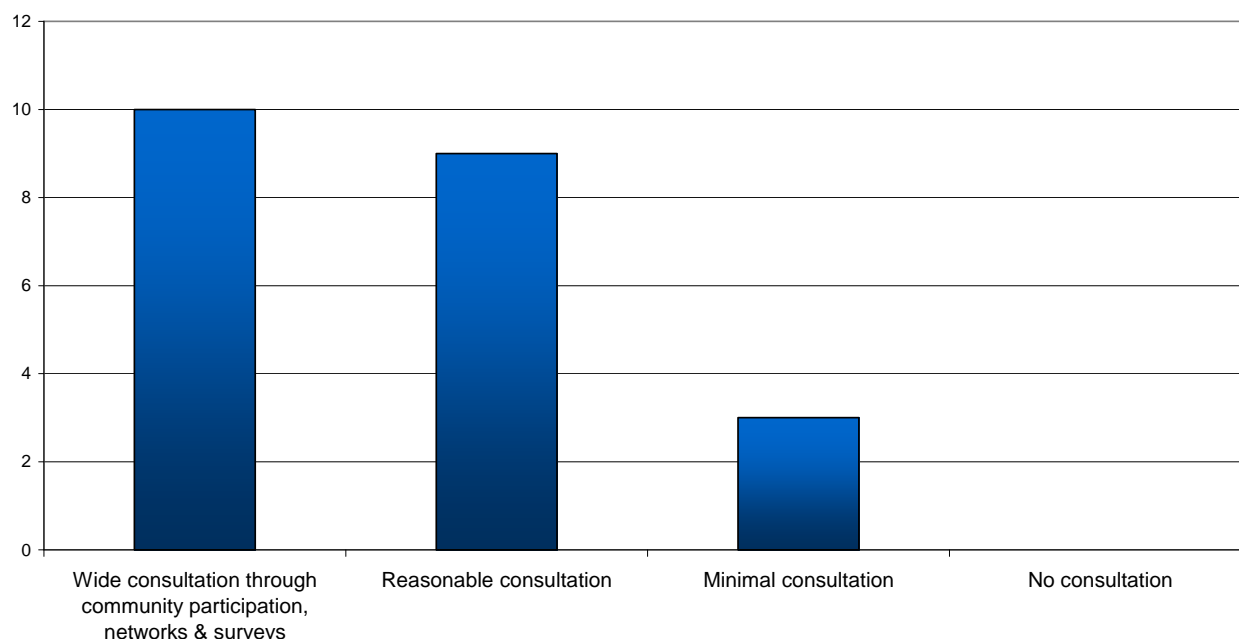
the staff of the County Voluntary Council in 10, including some by both staff and board. Six areas say that the third sector members of the Joint Liaison Committee endorse it.

On behalf of the voluntary sector, who has endorsed the current Community Strategy?



3. In 9 areas the local authority provides funding for the development and implementation of the Compact.
4. People have been involved in devising the Community Strategy by wide consultation through community participation, networks and surveys in 10 areas, reasonable consultation in 9 areas, and minimal consultation in 3 areas.

To what extent are service users and communities involved in devising the Community Strategy?



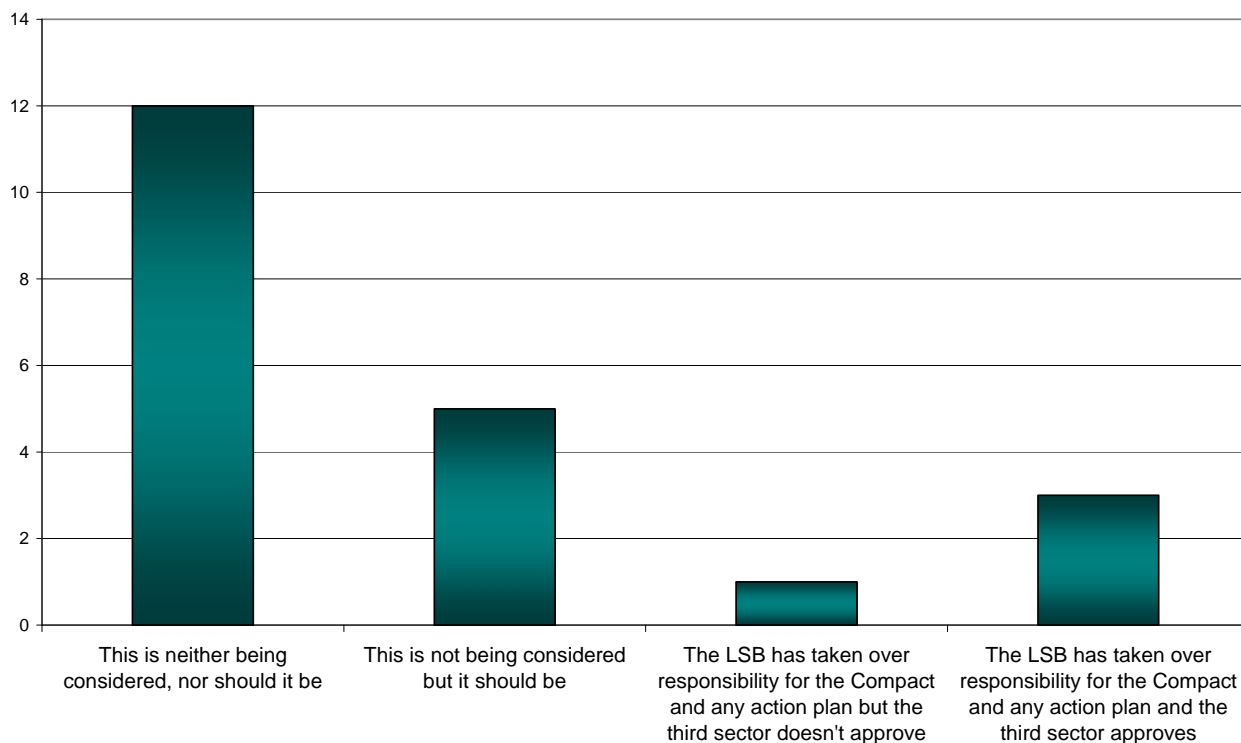
5. There is deep and deliberate involvement, of service users and communities, in delivering the outcomes of the Community Strategy in the 2 unitary authority areas of Ceredigion and Cardiff. There is limited deliberate involvement, which could be increased, in a further 12 areas. The remainder report less or no deliberate involvement.
6. There is a transparent process for deciding which social enterprises, voluntary, public or private organisations should provide services stemming from the priorities in the Community Strategy in 7 areas. These are: Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend and Newport. The other 15 areas say there is no such process.
7. In 9 areas the Joint Liaison Committee is satisfied that the third sector is appropriately involved with the delivery of the Community Strategy. These are: Conwy, Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire, Wrexham, Neath Port Talbot, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly.

Local Service Boards (LSB)

1. 21 unitary authority areas have a County Voluntary Council on the core group of the Local Service Board. The exception is Monmouthshire, where the Chairman of GAVO Local Management Committee (also overall chair of GAVO) and Assistant Director Monmouthshire have places on the Core Group.
2. In 9 unitary authority areas there are other third sector bodies on the Local Service Board at some level. These are: Conwy, Ynys Mon, Flintshire, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Newport and Denbighshire. In 13 unitary authority areas there are no other third sector bodies on the Local Service Board at any level.

Other third sector organisations, or the partnerships from which they are drawn, to be on the Local Service Board, include: Citizens Advice and a Housing Association.

3. In four areas the Local Service Board has taken over responsibility for the Compact and any action plan. In three of these areas, the third sector approves. In the remaining 17 areas, 12 said it wasn't being considered and nor should it be. Five said it wasn't being considered but should be. Five said it wasn't being considered but should be.



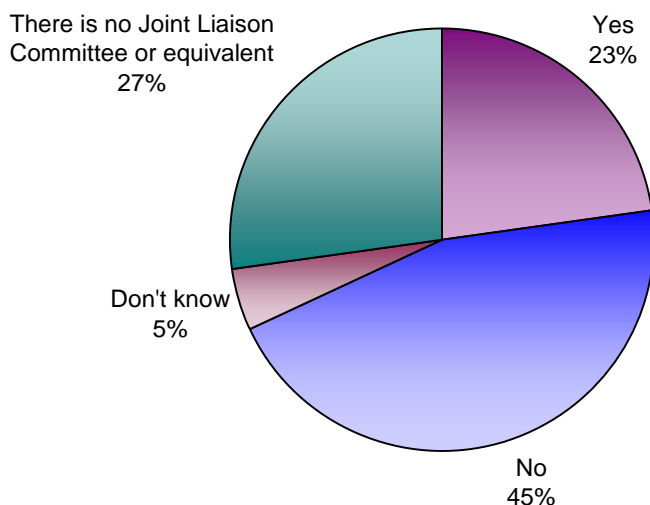
4. Some general comments made by County Voluntary Councils on their Local Service Boards were:

- PAVO, CVSC and AVOW currently chair their Local Service Boards
- The Pembrokeshire Local Service Board membership allows for the Chief Executive and Chair/Leader of the Local Health Board and Local Authority, but there is only one place for the Chief Officer of the County Voluntary Council - the Chair of Trustees is not invited.
- Good relationships are developing between the Local Service Board and County Voluntary Council in some areas
- Local Service Board feedback is a regular agenda item on Overarching Third Sector Forum in Neath Port Talbot.
- In at least Pembrokeshire and the Vale of Glamorgan some other sectors sitting on the Local Service Board have 2 members and the third sector has just one. The third sector should also have two.
- Funding for this work is an issue.

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy

1. The method of involvement of the third sector in the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy is agreed in 5 unitary authority areas by the Joint Liaison Committee. These are: Anglesey, Carmarthenshire, Cardiff, Caerphilly and Torfaen.

Is the method of involvement of the voluntary sector in the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy agreed by the Joint Liaison Committee or its equivalent?



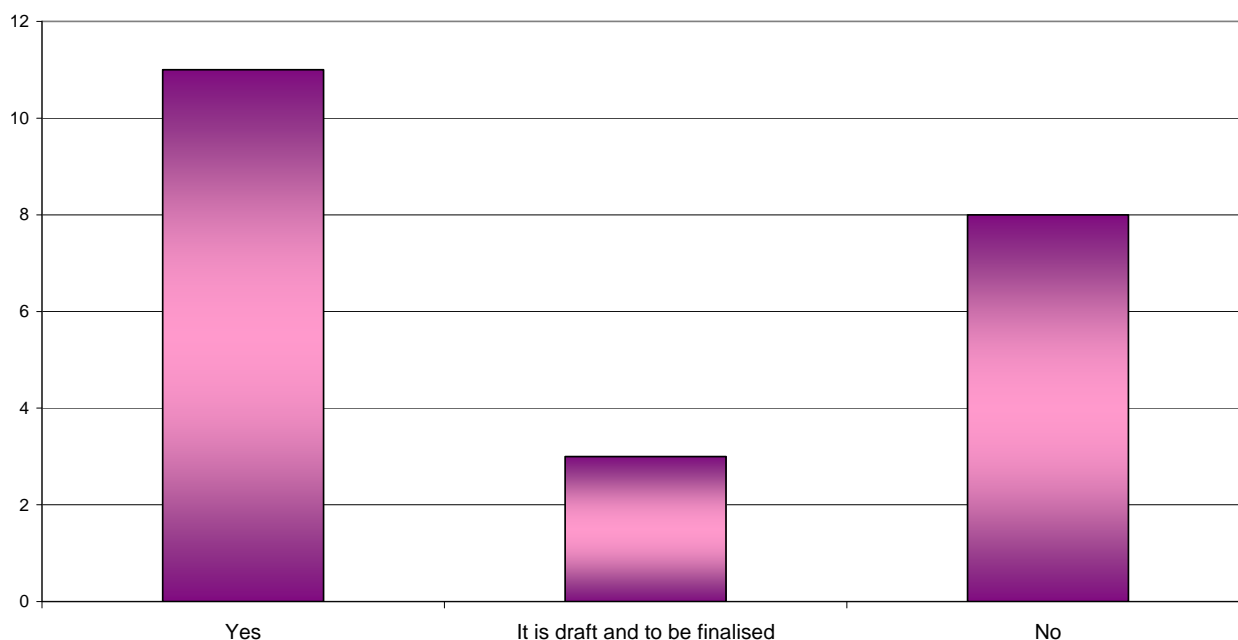
2. In answer to the question 'on behalf of the voluntary sector, who has endorsed the current Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy?' 19 areas say that this has been done by local voluntary sector networks and forums, including the County Voluntary Council. The board of trustees of the County Voluntary Council has endorsed it in 12 areas and the staff of the County Voluntary Council in 15, including some by both staff and board. 5 areas say that the third sector members of the Joint Liaison Committee endorse it.
3. In 9 areas the local authority provides funding for the development and implementation of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy. These are: Conwy, Pembrokeshire, Denbighshire, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Bridgend, and Wrexham.
4. People have been involved in devising the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy by wide consultation through community participation, networks and surveys in 14 areas, reasonable consultation in 7 areas, and minimal consultation in one area: Powys.
5. There is deep and deliberate involvement, of service users and communities, in delivering the outcomes of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy in the 3 unitary authority areas of Ceredigion, Caerphilly and Wrexham. There is limited deliberate involvement, which could be increased, in a further 18 areas, and no deliberate involvement in Swansea.
6. There is a transparent process for deciding which social enterprises, voluntary, public or private organisations should provide services stemming from the priorities in the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy in 8 areas. These are: Pembrokeshire, Flintshire, Ceredigion, Cardiff, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Wrexham and Newport. The other 14 areas say there is no such process.
7. In 10 areas the Joint Liaison Committee is satisfied that the third sector is appropriately involved with the delivery of the health, social care and wellbeing

strategy. These are: Anglesey, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire, Cardiff, Denbighshire, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Conwy and Wrexham. In some areas however the Joint Liaison Committee is not involved in this work.

Funding

1. In the 11 areas of Conwy, Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire, Ynys Mon, Carmarthenshire, Wrexham, Cardiff, Neath Port Talbot, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Powys, there are funding codes of practice used by all the parties to the local compacts. All these are agreed by the Joint Liaison Committee, 10 take account of the Welsh Assembly Government code of funding practice, 6 contain an explicit commitment to 'full cost recovery' and 6 are monitored at least annually.
2. In 3 of the 11 areas where a code of funding practice exists, rectifying action has been taken to ensure the code of funding practice has been followed and in 7 areas no such action has been required.
3. In 10 of the 22 areas there are procurement policies but only 5 always or almost always lead to parties to the compact publishing invitations to tender where the third sector is likely to see them.
4. In the 3 areas of Ceredigion, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil, there are draft codes of funding practice. Agreeing a code is seen as a priority in all three areas, but in Ceredigion and Rhondda Cynon Taff, there is no Joint Liaison Committee or equivalent.

Is there or are there funding code(s) of practice which are used by all the parties to the compact in your area?



5. In the 4 areas of Swansea, Bridgend, Monmouthshire and Newport, there is neither a code nor draft. Developing one is seen as a priority, but there is no Joint Liaison Committee or equivalent.

6. In Flintshire and Torfaen, there is neither code nor draft, and agreeing one is not seen as a priority. In Flintshire, there is broad acceptance of the Welsh Assembly Government funding code and the compact document refers to this but there is no separate funding code document. In Vale of Glamorgan, they are still working on the document but nothing is agreed as yet.

Additional questions and Information

1. The numbers in the chart below show the number of areas which ticked the relevant box on the reply form.

CVC 2010 part 7 of 7 - Additional Questions			
What major topics should the JLC, or equivalent, be addressing? If there is no such body, then what major topics should the CVC address with others? In each case, is it doing so? Please tick all which apply if they are important locally.			
Answer Options	being addressed	not being addressed	Response Count
Local Service Board	17	5	22
Partnerships and working groups with other agencies	18	4	22
European funding	10	11	21
Volunteering	18	4	22
Wales Spatial Plan	7	14	21
Scrutiny - participation by the third sector in scrutiny committees	20	2	22
The creation of a Joint Liaison Committee or equivalent	10	4	14
Commissioning and procurement	17	5	22
Health, social care and wellbeing	18	4	22
		<i>answered question</i>	21
		<i>skipped question</i>	0

2. There is voluntary sector involvement with local government overview and scrutiny committees in 11 areas, but it varies very much between one area and another.

In areas where there is no current involvement, eight County Voluntary Councils are promoting third sector engagement in overview and scrutiny committees.

3. There is third sector involvement with 'commissioning and procurement' decision making, alongside statutory partners, in 16 areas: Conwy, Swansea, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire, Wrexham, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Bridgend, Monmouthshire, Newport and Powys. The nature of the involvement varies.
4. Involvement in commissioning and procurement is being promoted in the seven areas of Pembrokeshire, Ynys Mon, Ceredigion, Denbighshire, Cardiff, Blaenau Gwent and Vale of Glamorgan.
5. Four County Voluntary Councils have received new financial resources to meet new responsibilities which have arisen since the 2009 compact survey.

6. Respondents' views of the overall relationship between the voluntary sector and the other parties to the compact:

CVC 2010 part 7 of 7 - Additional Questions						
Overall, the relationship between the voluntary sector and the other partners to this compact is:						
Answer Options	Positive and good	Fairly good	Good in parts, poor in others	In particular need of improvement	Not applicable	Response Count
Local Government	11	4	5	0	1	21
Police	5	7	0	1	8	21
Police Authority	4	2	2	1	12	21
Local Health Board	8	5	4	0	4	20
						<i>answered question</i>
						21
						<i>skipped question</i>
						1

Other partners mentioned include Further Education colleges and Fire & Rescue services.

7. 12 respondents commented on the relationship between the statutory partners and the voluntary sector. The two frequently raised themes are:
- Uncertainty and new working relationships brought about by the reorganisation of local health boards
 - Public expenditure reductions which may impact on future relationships between the third sector and statutory bodies either positively or negatively
8. In the replies to the question ‘What action do you believe would successfully address any deficiencies identified through your answers in this survey? This could be action by you or by others’, a number of themes emerge. Not all respondents mention every theme. These are:
- In the present dire economic climate, ensuring that the third sector is fully embedded, as part of the solution, through its proper integration into decision making, scrutiny and service planning and provision
 - County Voluntary Councils need ‘to encourage the sector to work more cooperatively amongst itself’.
 - The third sector ‘needs to promote what it can offer in value for money terms’ and also needs ‘to build our relationship with procurement officers so that they understand what we do and how we can deliver services’.
 - ‘If the Welsh Assembly Government truly wants the third sector to be engaged in service delivery, then they should put the funding with the third sector and require the statutory partners to work with us’. Also, ‘additional resources should be invested into the CVCs to ensure resources are targeted to promote the Third Sector involvement at strategic level’.
 - Ensuring effective engagement with the Local Service Board and Local Health Board.
 - The importance of a Code of Practice for Funding
 - Agreeing a Compact and possibly making it mandatory to have one
9. When asked to describe any opportunities open to the third sector to engage in the post Beecham agenda, and how they are being taken up, that had not already been covered in the survey, the following topics were raised:
- ‘We need to cut out any processes that do not directly and positively impact on service delivery and use the money differently. I spend a huge proportion of my time sitting around tables - surely my time would be better spent delivering a service of some kind instead of just talking about it? We need less policy and more practice; fewer action plans and more action’.
 - ‘Third sector have been fully engaged in the development of key projects implemented by the Local Service Board’.
 - ‘Local service agreements money has been used to develop proposals for developing citizen engagement and also for looking at community transport in relation to non emergency patient transport’.

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The links to the data from the Compact Survey 2010

The information is sent to you, as a member of the Third Sector Partnership Council, for monitoring purposes and for the promotion of the voluntary sector in Wales, in accordance with the data protection statement. Please do not circulate the information indiscriminately or for any other purpose than that described.

Part 1 - Compact - [click here](#)

Part 2 - Joint Liaison Committees - [click here](#)

Part 3 - Community Strategy - [click here](#)

Part 4 - Local Service Boards - [click here](#)

Part 5 - Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy - [click here](#)

Part 6 - Funding - [click here](#)

Part 7 - Additional Questions - [click here](#)