



The Alliance



Herefordshire
Primary Care Trust



Compact
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Code of Good Practice on Funding and Procurement Guidelines for transition during 2006/07.

The Code of Good Practice on Funding and Procurement code was launched in November 2005 and will take full effect in April 2007. In the meantime the Compact Code Implementation Group (CCIG), with members drawn from Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, Herefordshire Council and representatives from voluntary, community and not for profit organisations in the County, is working towards its implementation.

This set of questions and answers provides high level guidance to commissioners and providers on the activities of the CCIG and the transitional arrangements for implementation of the Code. A more detailed set of Frequently Asked Questions is available separately.

Q. What will change when the Code comes into force from April 2007?

A. Quite a lot, but not all straight away, and not for everyone at the same time. Change will be evolutionary, not revolutionary, so that stability can be maintained for both providers of services and users of services. Full implementation of the Code for all third-sector contracts is targeted for April 2008.

Q. Who is responsible for implementing the Code?

A. The Primary Care Trust, (PCT), Herefordshire Council and The Alliance share responsibility for implementing the Code. The three parties are working together through the Compact Code Implementation Group, (CCIG). The CCIG is accountable to the Health and Care Partnership through the Joint Commissioning Group. The Terms of Reference for the group can be accessed at <http://www.allianceherefordshire.org.uk/>.

Q. Who is on the CCIG?

A. Representatives from the PCT, the Council and the membership of The Alliance sit on the group, which is chaired by Andrew Nash of the Finance Department of the PCT.

The Group is supported by the Compact Officer, Glyn Johnson, who is based at The Alliance.

Q. How will we know what the CCIG is doing?

A. The CCIG has published an Implementation Plan for the delivery of the Code and Frequently Asked Questions, (FAQs), along with this Transitional Guidance. These can be accessed on the Alliance web site at <http://www.allianceherefordshire.org.uk/>



The CCIG meets monthly to monitor progress on implementation. The minutes of the meetings can also be accessed on the Alliance website.

Q. There are many qualifying clauses and caveats in the Code. How will we know what these will mean in practice?

A. The CCIG will be publishing an Addendum to the Code which defines and explains these terms and what they mean for implementation.

Q. There are many topics in the Code about which I know very little. How can I find out?

A. A series of shared learning events on the topics covered in the Code is planned, starting during Compact Week in the first week of November 2006. These will be for trustees and staff of voluntary, community and not for profit organisations and public sector health and care staff.

The contract for the events will be delivered for the CCIG by Community First.

Further information about these learning events will be available shortly.

Q. How can we be confident that everyone will know what this all means and how to put it into practice?

A. The shared learning events will be widely publicised. All those affected by the changes will have an opportunity to attend and therefore be prepared for implementation.

Q. In the past, there have been occasions when there has been difficulty in reaching agreements. How can we be confident that things will improve?

A. All three parties are jointly committed to implementing the Code and making it work in all respects. This commitment will undoubtedly assist in reducing any difficulties.

Two other factors are also important: firstly, the introduction of three-year contracts will ensure that providers are aware at the commencement of each financial year, the basis for reviewing funding levels for the coming year. Secondly, the introduction of systematic reviews will enable the parties to discuss any emerging issues of concern or development.

Q. What happens next?

A. As well as the learning events, commissioners will also be reviewing all contracts in November 2006 to check them for Compact compliance.

Q. How can I find out where my organisation fits into all this, and what it has to do?

A. There are several ways in which you can keep in touch with developments, including following the progress of the CCIG, talking to your operational manager, attending the learning events and linking with other members of The Alliance.



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