

## Working together works for everyone.

Why should you bother using the Compass in Cumbria common platform? This is a question often asked, the answer is very simple. The charitable sector in Cumbria represents a rich and valuable asset for promoting the wellbeing of all the residents of the county. One of the charitable sectors great strengths is that wherever a clear need for help or support emerges, an individual or a group of likeminded people will get together and fill that needs gap. Of course this cannot always happen but it happens often enough that we have a significant number of charities, trusts and other not for profit organisations providing services and support around the county.

What this means is that there is a wealth of talent and experience on the ground now delivering much needed services and support. The downside of this kind of organic development however is that we have a large number of organisations, all of different sizes, all at differing points in their organisational development, doing different things. This is further compounded by the difficulties in accessing sustainable funding for many organisations.

Whether you work holistically or are focussed on specific health conditions or life circumstances, we all work with people. People who often have complex needs and require support on a range of different issues and need help in accessing that support.

Being registered on the Compass in Cumbria site connects you with a wide range of other organisations, you can see what they provide and when and where they provide it. There is a wide range of online services you can access, it gets your organisation known and understood – and it free for you to use. See below

The facilities list immediately below are available to use for all, just register your organisation, there is no requirement to sign up to the Data Sharing Protocol (DSP) or Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) for this level of access.

- **Events Diary** - you can input all your upcoming one off and repeat events. Other organisations can see then and ensure they do not conflict, they may offer to join with you and share costs or simply refer clients into you.
- **Bulletin Board** – upload any key information, new project announcements, appeals, and request for help.
- **Factsheets and Guides** – You can view all participating organisations leaflets, find specialist advice, upload your own leaflets. Whilst most organisations have their leaflets attached to their websites, this is the best centralised repository of information. No need to trawl lots of websites, it's all here, just uses the key word search.
- **Jobs and Volunteering** – Allows you to advertise jobs or volunteer opportunities, saving time and money.
- **Organisations** – Provides you with the opportunity to view all the registered organisations, see what they provide, where they provide it and who they provide it too.

The following facilities require the organisation to sign the Data Sharing Protocol (DSP) and Data Sharing Agreement (DSA). If you are collecting and storing client information and making referrals to other organisations, It is worth noting there is nothing in either of these documents that you are not already legally obliged to do or that doesn't represent good working practise.

The Data Sharing Protocol (DSP) and Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) can be downloaded from this bulletin, as can a hard copy of this explanatory document.

- **Placebook** – Provides an online diary system for all your staff, accessible from anywhere they have access to the internet. You can also view other organisational structures, who does what and how to contact them.
- **MARS** – Is a simple to use online referral system. Once signed up you can make referrals to all the other participating organisations safely and in a legally compliant way. Once you have properly completed your referral template and have uploaded any appropriate documents, you simply select the receiving organisation and click send, they will automatically receive an alert email to let them know they have a new referral. All your incoming and outgoing referrals are fully tracked, if no one acts on your referral, you are notified – you can even ask for feedback on the outcome of the referrals you have made.
- **CRIS** – Stands for Client Recording Information System, it is a comprehensive online client recording and management system. CRIS provides organisations with simple and useable methods of recording all your client engagements from the simple provision of information to long term and complex casework. CRIS also provides you with the ability to assign each client contact to a specific project or funder and/or record outcomes separately assigned to projects or funders. There is a wide range of very useful features embedded in CRIS.
- **Compass** – Is embedded within CRIS and provides an complete holistic assessment process. Compass produces an automatic risk analysis for each client, identifying the issues in their living experience that puts them at risk of increased hospitalisation or needing ASC support. Whether you provide a holistic service or a condition or circumstance specific service, assessing the clients whole needs is key to providing a sustainable impact. The embedded MARS access allows you to make referrals onwards for all those services you do not provide directly.

There are a great deal more key features to the systems than can be detailed in this document, if you would like to know more, don't hesitate to call 01539 728118 and ask for Pam Lewis or Hugh Tomlinson.

Remember access and use of these online facilities is free of charge, as long as you are providing help and support to the citizens of Cumbria, not for profit. This offer is available to individuals, groups, charity's and trust or any not for profit organisation.

See FAQ's for more information.

**Working together works for everyone...**Hugh Tomlinson