



Compass Community Partnerships Ltd (08343456)

Chris Allen

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Employment history:

Self-employed (August 2003 - present)

- Compass Community Partnerships formed March 2000. Full time from August 2003.
- Compass Community Partnerships Ltd incorporated December 2012.

Appointments and Accreditations

- Pride in Place Low Hill Wolverhampton Independent Chair (current)
- Big Local Area Adviser / Representative Local Trust / Renaisi (2011-2025).
- Director Wolverhampton Community Radio Training CIC (2019) Chair from 2021-2026.
- Community and Business Editor Wolverhampton Community Radio (March 2020 to present)
- Locality Community Economic Development adviser (2015/16).
- Locality First Steps adviser and training module writer (2015/16).
- Locality Our Place Relationship Manager and Cost Benefit Analysis Consultant (2014-16).
- Big Local Social Investment Representative Local Trust / Renaisi (2013-16).
- Worcestershire CVS Changing Futures adviser (2012-2015).
- Big Assist approved supplier for National Association of Community and Voluntary organisations (2012).
- Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands adviser (2012).
- Communities and Locality Adviser – DCLG & previous depts (accredited 2002, 2005, 2008).
- Associate Consultant with Renaisi Ltd, London.
- Associate Consultant with MEL Research Ltd, Birmingham.

Skills and abilities

- I have extensive knowledge of delivering and supporting area based resident led initiatives, community engagement, partnership development, community safety and young people.
- I have experience in developing and writing business plans for local communities and small organisations through engagement, visioning and outcome development.
- I have strong communication skills as a broadcaster, podcaster, writer and public speaker.
- I provided strategic direction to Wolverhampton Community Radio Training CIC.
- I am a trained facilitator in interactive mechanisms that enable a whole system approach to problem solving, such as Appreciative Inquiry, World Café and Open Space.
- I have strong inter-personal skills and am experienced in negotiating with senior managers and elected members.
- I am an experienced trainer covering regeneration, community development, locality working, neighbourhood plan development, scrutiny, and performance management.
- I am able to develop the 'business case' for change using tools and approaches that encompass Cost Benefit Analysis, Social Return on Investment, Early Intervention, etc.
- I have experience of working with minority groups and engaging hard to reach and isolated groups in both a community and faith context.
- I have specialist knowledge and experience relating to multi-faith related issues, and work voluntarily as an ordained church minister.
- I have fulfilled over 700 assignments across all sectors. A number of these have resulted in the publication exemplar case studies.

Big Local Programme Experience:

- Big Local Beacons Project for Local Trust (October 2025 to present)
- Local Trust representative to seven areas
 - East Coseley, Dudley (2011 to 2025)
 - Grace Mary to Lion Farm, Sandwell (2011 to 2025)



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- Mossley in Walsall (2012 to 2025)
- Scotlands Bushbury Hill, Wolverhampton (2012 to 2025)
- Podsmead, Gloucestershire (2019 to 2025)
- Church Hill, Worcestershire (2020 to 2023)
- Welsh House Farm, Birmingham (2021 to 2025)
- Firs and Bromford, Birmingham (2022 to 2025)
- Big Local plan assessor (2017 to 2024)
- Big Local Social Investment Area representative (2013-2016)
- Other experience:
 - Bradley (plan writing)
 - Church Hill (complaint review)
 - Conniburrow (advisory support)
 - Firs and Bromford (plan writing)
 - Hateley Cross (plan writing and green spaces strategy development)
 - Heath Big Local (support to rep)
 - DY10 (plan writing, partnership support, LTO change)
 - Rudheath and Witton (community hub support)
 - St Peter's and the Moors (rep support)
 - Toothill (complaint review)

Localism:

- Evaluator of Steps Towards Eradicating Poverty programme (Sandwell)
- Evaluator of Tipton Communities Connected programme (Sandwell)
- Neighbourhood Plan development pilot for Renaisi Ltd (Great Bridge in Sandwell)
- Our Place programme Relationship Manager to Sparkbrook Neighbourhood Forum, Kingstanding Regeneration Trust, Birmingham City Council, The Malachi Trust, Blackburn & Darwen Council, and Mercer House, Accrington.
- Community Economic Development Adviser to Smethwick Churches Action Network and Highlife Centre, Coventry.
- First Steps programme adviser to HTP Enterprise in Tipton, Broad Street In Coventry and Holloway Hall in Birmingham.
- Lead adviser to 5 Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders (Blacon, Burton, Great Lever, Hattersley & Kidderminster) and development of Neighbourhood Element
- New Deal for Communities Performance Improvement (across six NDC areas).
- Communities and Local Government (DCLG) - Neighbourhood Charter development.
- DCLG / Tenant Services Authority – toolkit for resident organisations.
- Connecting Communities Regional Adviser in the North West & East of England.

Strategic development support and evaluation:

- Adviser to the Bangladeshi Regeneration Council.
- Walsall Council – evaluation of support to the Community and Voluntary Sector.
- Telford & Wrekin catering 'Lean' review.
- Welsh Government evaluation of Supporting Sustainable Living programme.
- Birmingham MASH (Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub) – lead partners West Midlands Police, Birmingham Children's Services, Birmingham NHS & Mental Health Services.
- Extended services evaluation, Birmingham (Kings Norton).
- Worcestershire PCT Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme.
- Worcestershire Partnership - Place Adviser supporting areas of high need (Total Place).
- Walsall Partnership - Place Adviser supporting Working Smarter programme.

Community Cohesion and Faith Communities:

- Sandwell – development of the Multi-Faith Network.
- Warrington – engagement of the Faith Sector in Area Management.
- Connecting Communities Regional Adviser in the North West & East of England.
- Connecting Communities Local Adviser (Bolton, Knowsley, Broxbourne & Sandwell).
- Evaluation of cohesion between faith communities and far right groups in Oldham and Burnley.



Community Safety and Crime Reduction:

- Support to Worcester Community Safety Partnership re strategy development
- Government Office West Midlands MARAC evaluation (domestic violence).
- Staffordshire and Shropshire MARACs (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing).
- Knowsley development and facilitation of Domestic Violence reduction strategy.
- Walsall NDC – neighbourhood warden evaluation and succession strategy.
- West Mercia Police & Partners - training programme on Problem Solving processes.
- Worcestershire - evaluation of Special Domestic Violence Courts.

Local Democracy:

- Walsall Council – Area Partnership review – training for members.
- Hertfordshire County Council Locality Working training on Localism.
- East Riding of Yorkshire Locality Action Team development.
- Local Government White Paper - support for Elected Members.
- Newcastle-under-Lyme – workshops for elected members in wards and parishes.
- West Midlands core skills for elected members on LAA delivery – lead adviser.

Strategic development:

- Doncaster NDC area - development of a youth strategy.
- Kensington NDC – youth strategy development.
- Government Office East - development of a regional volunteering strategy.
- King's Lynn and West Norfolk - development of an older person's strategy.

Training & Development:

- Burngreave New Deal for Communities - staff development.
- Government Office East training for Neighbourhood Element.
- Local Area Agreement development training courses (new arrangements).
- West Midlands Learning to Deliver programme (third sector development).

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:

- *Crime Concern West Midlands (July 2001 - July 2003) - Senior Consultant*
- *Nacro Services Walsall (July 2000 – July 2001) - Youth Inclusion Manager*
- *Birmingham Diocese (Dec 1998 - June 2000) - European Project Officer*
- *Aston Newtown Community Youth Project (May 1995 - November 1998) - Manager*
- *St Bernard's Church, Hamstead, Birmingham (May 1992 - April 1995) - Vicar*
- *Church Pastoral Aid Society (Sept 1985 - May 1992) - Trainer / Department Head*
- *Birmingham Parish Church (June 1980 - August 1985) - Assistant Curate*
- *St George's Church Leeds (July 1978 - August 1979) - Lay Curate*
- *Lever Brothers Ltd, Merseyside (July 1974 - September 1975) - Technician*

FORMAL EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS:

- The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham; PG Cert 'Transformative Practice' 2020
- Diocese of Birmingham: Ordained Deacon June 1980; Ordained Priest June 1981
- St John's College Nottingham (1979 -1980): Post Graduate Diploma in Pastoral Studies
- University of Leeds (1975 - 1978): BA Hons (2ii): Theology & Religious Studies
- Birkenhead School (1969 - 1974): O' Levels in 8 subjects and A' Levels in 4 subjects