

CIG issues for clarification following meeting of 7 April 2010

1. Representation

- Stephanie Blayney and Graham Burt (Sunderland City Council) gave a presentation to the Delivery and Improvement Board of the Sunderland Partnership on 9 February 2010, and through that presentation invited organisations to nominate a representative to sit on the Compact Implementation Group.
- No organisation made a nomination, so in conjunction with the Partnership Manager, we identified the key public sector partners who we felt were crucial to have at the first meeting to drive the Compact forward. This is not to say that we do not want representatives from all partners to attend the group – this would be most welcome and something which we can actively pursue if the CIG thinks this is the best course of action. All Partners will receive Compact updates via reports to the DIB and the Strategic Board.
- VCS representation. Two representatives (Alan Patchett and Tracey Morgan) were nominated as SCN delegates. They have responsibility for reporting back to the SCN Core Group.
- We identified that, given the previous Code of Practice co-chairing arrangements for the development of the Codes of Practice, it would be beneficial to retain specialist VCS knowledge, and experience of the Compact journey so far, on the Compact Implementation Group. For this reason we invited:
 - Ailsa Martin (Sunderland Carers Centre) as she was the Involvement and Consultation Code of Practice co-chair and has substantial experience in this field in her role at the Carers Centre
 - David Curtis (Volunteer Centre) as he was the Volunteering Code of Practice co-chair and is the manager of the Volunteer Centre, so is an expert in this area
 - Gillian McDonough (Sunderland CVS) as Gillian co-chaired the Voluntary and Community Groups Code of Practice and CVS is the first-tier infrastructure organisation for the sector in Sunderland
 - Alan Patchett (SCN and Age Concern Sunderland) is already on the CIG as the SCN delegate but was the co-chair of the Funding and Procurement Code of Practice and has considerable expertise in the area.

These VCS representatives are not expected to report back to the wider sector – that is the role of the SCN representatives, although there may of course be cross over along the line.

2. Codes of Practice Co-chairing arrangements

- These arrangements were in place for the development of the Codes of Practice. Now that they all (with the exception of the equalities focused codes) are developed we need to find a permanent home for them, where

they can become part of core business and be regularly monitored and areas for update identified. To that end, it has been suggested that:

- The Volunteering Code of Practice sits with the Volunteer Forum
- The Voluntary and Community Groups Code of Practice sits with SCN and the Area Community Coordinators at Sunderland City Council
- The Involvement and Consultation Code of Practice sits with the Partnership Involvement and Consultation Group
- Discussions regarding these are at an early stage, and as you will notice we have not identified a home yet for Funding and Procurement. The equalities focused codes will remain with their IAGs.

3. Equalities focused Codes of Practice

- After discussing with the Partnership Manager, we agreed to invite a representative of the Inclusive Communities Thematic Group to attend the CIG, rather than inviting a rep from each of the equalities focused Codes of Practice. There are several reasons for this:
 - Only the Disabilities and Older Persons Codes of Practice are developed and agreed.
 - Not all of the IAGs are formed for each of the Codes and it would therefore be impossible to ask someone to attend the CIG to represent their views
 - On a practical level, the CIG could become quite large which could make it slower to progress work
 - Sarah Woodhouse works with the IAGs and will therefore be able to have an overarching view of all the Equalities Codes of Practice and their various stages of development

4. City Council role

- Sunderland City Council has historically been the lead organisation for the coordination of the development of the Compact. That does not mean, however, that the responsibility for the implementation of the Compact rests solely with the Council. All Partners, upon signing up to the Compact, agreed to take responsibility for the implementation of the Compact within their own organisation. We hope that the CIG will help to facilitate this. Sunderland City Council will, however:
 - Maintain the structures (eg paper work, meeting arranging, filing)
 - Act as the contact point for any queries about the Compact
 - Draft reports and action plans for the CIG's approval
 - Provide resource to assist with the production of material to help promote the Compact
 - Provide the lead officer for the Compact who will act as a central coordinating point and link with organisations such as the Commission for the Compact, providing strategic guidance to the CIG on how to make the Compact successful in Sunderland.