

14 October 2009

Dear Colleague

Sunderland Compact and Supporting Codes of Practice.

The Sunderland Partnership would like to invite you, on behalf of your organisation, to arrange sign-up to the refreshed Sunderland Compact – available at www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk

As you may be aware the Sunderland Partnership and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations across Sunderland have been developing a refreshed Sunderland Compact since 2007. The Sunderland Compact provides a framework for improving relationships between organisations of the Sunderland Partnership and VCS organisations, which will support the delivery of the Sunderland Strategy resulting in improved outcomes for the citizens of Sunderland. Benefits of becoming a Sunderland Compact signatory include:

- Increased understanding by others of your role in and positive contribution to the delivery of the Sunderland Partnership
- Clearer processes to enable you to get involved in decision making and to access funding
- Feeling more confident to become part of partnerships in the city.

The main Compact document sets out the general themes which underpin the framework and the supporting Codes of Practice give more detail on areas covering:

- Funding and Procurement
- Volunteering
- Involvement and Consultation
- Voluntary and Community Groups
- Older Persons
- Disability

Further codes covering areas such as Faith, Gender and Young People are under development.

Throughout the development process there have been many opportunities for all organisations and groups to engage in the process through working groups and consultation exercises. A significant proportion of the consultation was undertaken by Sunderland Centre for Voluntary Service [SCVS] and voluntary sector organisations supporting the development of specific codes of practice.

The refreshed Sunderland Compact and six of its supporting Codes of Practice were endorsed by the Delivery and Improvement Board of the Sunderland Partnership and the Council's Cabinet in June 2009. The documents can be accessed at www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk

We are inviting all organisations through their Chief Officers and decision making structures to support a Compact way of working and sign and return the attached proforma. Following the return of the form and sign up, all organisations will receive a specially designed Compact Folder containing all the Compact documents and other helpful information. Organisations will also receive a unique registration number and will be registered onto www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk. The number will act as confirmation that your organisation agrees to work in partnership to achieve a Compact way of working.

A Compact Implementation Group made up of Statutory and VCS partners will be established and will feed into the Sunderland Partnership. The group will seek to ensure all signatory organisations develop a Sunderland Compact way of working and embed the key principles into the values and operations of organisations.

You will note from the attached sign up form we are asking you to consider how the process to refresh the Sunderland Compact may have benefited your organisation and also to consider any future activity you may be considering to adopt the key principles of the Compact.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter please do not hesitate to contact either Jane Hibberd, Assistant Head of Community Services (Community Development) or Stephanie Blayney, Partnership Development Manager, at Sunderland City Council on (0191) 561 4603, or email compact@sunderland.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Canon Stephen Taylor
Sunderland Partnership Chair



Cllr Paul Watson
Leader of Sunderland City Council