

## Sunderland Compact Update September 2010

### Local Update

#### Compact Implementation Group Update

The second meeting of the Compact Implementation Group (CIG) took place on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010, the agenda, minutes and papers are posted on [www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk)  
The next meeting of the CIG will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The CIG is to progress the implementation of the Funding and Procurement code of practice, the Sunderland Partnership welcome anyone with knowledge/expertise/influence in this area to join the group to ensure the code of practice is implemented across the City. Please contact Jane Wetherell – [jane.wetherell@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:jane.wetherell@sunderland.gov.uk) / 0191 561 5018 for further information.

#### **Sunderland awarded green flag by Compact Voice for good practice (From [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk))**

Sunderland is one of 15 areas, and the only one in the North East, to be awarded a green flag by Compact Voice for good practice around the implementation of the local Compact.

According to Compact Voice, green-flagged areas exhibit most of the following:

- Progress in developing a thriving voluntary sector
- A partnership approach to policy development and other community initiatives
- An atmosphere where local groups feel comfortable challenging decisions
- A visible Compact which is often supported by Compact workers
- An effective Compact implementation group that meets regularly and reports to the local strategic partnership
- Well-trained and supported Compact champions
- Identifiable, concrete benefits on the ground as a result of working together

Compact Voice writes:

"Sunderland has introduced a range of practical initiatives to embed Compact working in council processes from their procurement system to e-learning for council members and staff."

Further information on the Green Flag programme can be found at [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk)

## **Compact signatories**

There are now 95 organisations signed up to the Compact. If you are not yet signed up, further information can be found at [www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk)

If you think that your organisation has good practice to share relating to the Compact, either something you are already doing or something you may be planning to do to become Compact compliant, please let us know by emailing [compact@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:compact@sunderland.gov.uk) or phoning 0191 561 4603, as we are building up a database of case studies that we can use to celebrate the innovation and good practice that exists in Sunderland.

## **Compact Week 2010**

Look out for information and events during Compact week (1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November) which will celebrate how we work in partnership in Sunderland to improve our communities.

## **Update from Partner organisations**

### **Draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteer Strategy**

The formal consultation on the draft Sunderland Volunteering Strategy closed on 17 September 2010. Many thanks to each organisation that responded to the consultation. As a result of your feedback, the final draft document that is taken to the Sunderland Partnership will be shorter, make better links with the Volunteer Toolkit and be more clear in how it is going to achieve its objectives. Further updates will be posted on the Sunderland Compact website.

### **Sunderland Volunteering Toolkit**

Over 400 VCS and statutory sector organisations have received a copy of the Sunderland Volunteering Toolkit. The Volunteer Centre Sunderland and Sunderland City Council worked in partnership to produce the Toolkit in 2008, following the development of the Sunderland Compact Volunteering Code of Practice.

It contains good practice information on volunteering and the law and volunteering policies as well as a CD Rom which contains sample policies and forms for organisations in Sunderland.

The Volunteer Centre and Sunderland City Council have updated the Toolkit to reflect changes in law and policy, along with a more user-friendly CD Rom. This will be launched in Compact Week (1 – 7 November). More information on this coming soon.

If your organisation does not have a copy of the toolkit please contact Sarah Grey, City Services on 0191 5615017 or email [volunteering@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@sunderland.gov.uk).

## **Sunderland City Council Grants Protocol**

Sunderland City Council is looking to improve its grants processes to bring it in line with the Sunderland Compact's Funding and Procurement Code of Practice and provide better support to the Voluntary and Community Sector. This will include streamlining all existing processes to one consistent process and putting mechanisms in place to ensure that organisational information is only asked for once, regardless of which Directorate you are requesting funding from. This will be assisted by the Unique Compact Reference Number which already holds links to organisational information and the development of IT processes.

A group of VCS representatives from the Sunderland Community Network have been consulted on the draft forms and process which will be submitted for approval by the Executive Management Team in the coming weeks. For further information or comments please contact the Council's Community Development Team on 0191 561 5002.

### **E-learning pilot**

As part of its internal Compact compliance plan Sunderland City Council has developed e-learning modules around the Sunderland Compact – starting with an overview of the Sunderland Compact and a detailed look at the Funding and Procurement Code of Practice. These modules are now to be piloted with partner organisations and VCS representatives across the city to help ensure better knowledge of the Compact across all organisations. The funding for the e-licences of the pilot will be provided by Sunderland City Council. Further information will be provided following the pilot programme.

### **South of Tyne and Wear Primary Care Trust Grants process report**

This report (Appendix 1) explains how the Community Services and Joint Commissioning Team (CSCJ) developed and piloted a grant process for awarding funding to third sector providers across SOTW. It describes how the grant process was used to award Cardio Vascular Disease (CVD) NHS Healthcheck Funding and details which third sector organisations were awarded funding and next steps (Third Sector is deemed to refer to Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Providers).

## **Regional Update**

### **North East Region Compact Voice Event – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010 (From [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk) )**

The Centre for Life in central Newcastle saw an energetic collection of voluntary and public sector staff gather to share good practice and compare progress in Compact implementation. The event was chaired by the Compact Voice regional leader for the

North East Gillian McDonough, with presentations from Gev Pringle (Chief Executive, GVOC) and Hazel Thompson (eVolution Darlington CVS).

Some great ideas emerged from the discussions, including making Compact part of HR inductions for council staff and "resourcing" Compact work through writing it into work plans from the beginning. Some trepidation was also expressed in the light of increasing cuts to services and the uncertainty of how local authorities would be assessed in the after-math of Comprehensive Area Assessments.

Download the presentations <http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/content/newcastle-building-better-communities> or contact the Community Development Team on 5615002.

## **National Compact**

### **Draft Renewed national Compact**

Compact Voice has produced a draft renewed national Compact which is currently out to consultation (Appendix 2). They believe that this has been necessary given the change in Government. While the Government has stated its commitment to the Compact, it has also made clear that structural changes are necessary to make it more effective. Compact Voice's aim with the draft document is that it will be easier to use and understand, aligned to current and emerging policy priorities, and will deliver better national and local partnerships.

The challenge for Sunderland is to consider the implications of the renewed document for our local Compact. A full briefing on the local implications will be made available following the end of the national 6 week consultation period.

### **Social and Economic Value of the Compact**

The Commission for the Compact has published research into the Social and Economic Value of the Compact. Key findings include;

- Improved relationships with voluntary organisations
- More effective consultation including: increased reach and increase in respondents, increases citizen involvement in decision-making and reductions in the cost of gathering views and evidence
- More efficient monitoring including: reduced internal costs, removal of duplication and "freeing up" officer time
- Improved commissioning including: improved understanding of the needs of service users, improved service design, "downstream" service savings and staff time savings
- Gains from longer term funding including: stability and sustainability in delivery partnerships, administrative savings, increased staff retention and improvements in institutional memory

- Advancing equality including: increased understanding of the community as a whole, improvements in Equality Impact Assessments

The full document and associated papers can be found at [www.thecompact.org.uk/benefits](http://www.thecompact.org.uk/benefits)

We will be producing a paper looking at the implications of this report for Sunderland.

**Local Compact Champions Pack**  
(From [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk) )

Compact Voice and the Commission for the Compact have developed a new [resource pack](#) to support Compact champions from the voluntary sector. This new PDF resource contains a number of tools to help champions promote Compact working in their own organisations and with their local partners. The tools cover topics such as designing a champion role, reporting to the local implementation group, a disputes record and a training schedule. It has been designed to help champions sell their Compact, work together with other champions and sort out situations where things have gone wrong between partners.

In Sunderland, we are reviewing this and will be adapting it for the needs of Compact Champions in our City.

**Department of Health demonstrates its Compact commitment**  
(From [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk) )

The Department of Health (DH) has introduced a number of changes into the application process for their Innovation Excellence and Service Development Fund this year, but continued to ensure that the process follows Compact principles throughout. Working with Compact Voice, representatives from DH examined how changes to the application process would impact on the voluntary and community sector, and ensured that eligible organisations were able to apply for the fund.

The process meets a number of key Compact undertakings, such as an application period giving sufficient time to enable organisations to apply, full-cost recovery and provision of constructive feedback for unsuccessful applicants.

Tom Elkins of Compact Voice says: “We are very pleased that the Department of Health remains committed to the Compact, particularly during these difficult financial times. We believe this application process highlights the continued importance of the Compact, and promotes the value of maintaining support for its principles in the face of increasing economic pressures.”

The CIG will translate how this will affect/benefit our City.

**Government will consider Compact when making cuts**  
(From [www.thirdsector.co.uk](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk))

Speaking at Cabinet Office questions in the House of Commons last week, Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, said the government was "fully committed to the Compact" and confirmed that Minister for the Cabinet Office Francis Maude had written to ministerial colleagues asking them to consider the Compact when making cuts.

Mr Hurd further told MPs that the Compact would be on the agenda when a group of ministers with responsibility for the Big Society met for the first time next week. He also said the Cabinet Office was interested in reforming commissioning to make it easier for voluntary sector organisations to compete for public sector contracts.

Cabinet Office minister Oliver Letwin told the Commons that longer term funding for the sector was "enormously important".

He said: "We are moving away from the micro-management of processes in contracts and towards a very exciting new world of payment by results, so that voluntary organisations can use their talents and initiative to achieve real results."

**Compact Voice Briefings**

Compact Voice has produced a briefing:

- How to safeguard Sector stability - using your Compact

This document can be accessed on [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk).

---

If your contact details have changed please either email your updated details to [compact@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:compact@sunderland.gov.uk) or return this slip to:

Jane Wetherell

Community Development Assistant

Sunderland City Council,  
Community Development,  
Jack Crawford House,  
Commercial Rd,  
Sunderland,  
SR2 8QR

Name:

Address (incl. Postcode):

Telephone:

Email:

This information can be made available in large print, Braille, audio and other languages. Please contact the Community Development Team on 0191 5615002 or email [compact@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:compact@sunderland.gov.uk) for help.