

Refreshing the Sunderland Compact

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‘Local Compacts....don’t just happen by being written down. Outcomes from working together depend on processes – beware focussing simply on the *what* without agreeing the *how*.’

Local Compact Implementation Workbook
– Winning the Deal by Paul Barasi 2006

Background

- Two local Compacts:
 - Sunderland Partnership Compact (c.2000)
 - Health and Social Care Compact (c.2002)
- Varying degrees of success and recognised good practice
- Significant Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and partner involvement in their development

Sunderland Partnership Community Development Plan (CDP)

- Process started October 2006
- Aim is to develop an effective and sustainable approach to Community Development in Sunderland, underpinning the delivery of the Sunderland Strategy
- Consultation highlighted the need to refresh the Sunderland Compact

The Project

- Community Development Plan 'Policy Principles:
 - Financial Viability
 - Accountability
 - Representation
 - Quality Standards
- NRF secured to 31st March 2008:
 - Compact meetings, Launch event, Annual conference, Contribution to salaries, Full time admin officer
- By 31st March:
 - Upfront text of main Compact document agreed
 - Draft text of the Codes of Practice developed
 - Implementation action plans for the Codes of Practice developed
 - Accountability structure for Compact breaches
- Expected to be a 12 – 18 month process

Project Structure

- **Sunderland Partnership Community Development Strategy Group (CDSG)**– delegates from Sunderland Partnership organisations; remit to act as accountable group for the Compact project
- **Compact Officer Group** – Supports the Compact staff, includes the SCN Co-ordinator, Sunderland CVS, Sunderland Partnership Manager, TPCT and the City Council
- **Compact Codes of Practice Working Groups** – co-chaired by a Voluntary & Community Sector and Statutory Sector representative. Will develop and draft the 5 Codes of Practice and action plans
- **Compact Forum** – made up of the Code of Practice leads and the Compact Officer Group. Project delivery arm

Challenges

-another Compact!
- Their experiences of those processes, and of their implementation, may colour expectations of the refreshed Compact.
- The development of the CDP highlighted that relationships both between VCS and the wider Sunderland Partnership, and within the VCS, are at times delicate.
- The process must be fully inclusive, and take into account concerns of the VCS and the wider partnership.

The Way Forward

- Involvement in the Code of Practice Working Groups
 - Full involvement
 - Updates for information
- Helping to draft the main Compact document (by correspondence)
- Coming to the 1st Annual Sunderland Compact Conference (to be held in March 2008)

The Outcome

Improved relationships between the VCS and the wider Sunderland Partnership leading to improved service delivery and quality of life for the residents of Sunderland.

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