



## CAERPHILLY VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 19TH SEPTEMBER 2018

**SUBJECT: REVISED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (COMPACT) BETWEEN THE  
PSB AND THE THIRD SECTOR**

**REPORT BY: MARTIN FEATHERSTONE – CEO, GAVO**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the drafting of the revised Partnership Agreement (previous Compact) between PSB members and the Third Sector to seek the views of members of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.
- 1.2 To provide a draft Third Sector Partnership Agreement for consideration and amendment prior to its presentation to Cabinet and the PSB.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The most recent Compact Agreement “Delivering Together” ran from April 2013 to April 2017, with associated annual delivery plans. This version of the Compact focussed on delivering partnership actions through the Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan “Caerphilly Delivers” which also ran from 2013-2017. The agreement and action plan process were considered for review in 2016-2017, and it was agreed at the PSB in June 2017 that as the development of the Well-being Plan would not be complete until May 2018 there was an opportunity to align the two complimentary planning and delivery arrangements with a view to having a single plan for the area, the Well-being Plan, with greater involvement of the third sector. An updated third sector agreement should follow. This report introduces a proposed Third Sector Partnership Agreement for the consideration of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 During the interim period while the Well-being Plan was being developed, work has been undertaken with the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub Committee and the Voluntary Sector Representatives Sub Committee to align the agreement and actions with the well-being goals for Wales within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:

- *A prosperous Wales*
- *A resilient Wales*
- *A healthier Wales*
- *A more equal Wales*
- *A Wales of cohesive communities*
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
- *A globally responsible Wales.*

## 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The “Delivering Together” Compact Agreement and its antecedent third sector schemes have been a valuable part of the interrelationship between the public and third sectors in the Caerphilly county borough since 1999, following a request from the then Welsh Secretary to develop a shared understanding between partners. Initially a direction to local authorities to work together through formal agreements with the third sector the direction was later extended to local health boards. Hence local authorities and health boards remain under a ministerial direction to have formal agreements in place.
- 4.2 The partnership arrangements were later linked to the Welsh Government Third Sector Scheme (Section 74 of the Government of Wales Act 2006) which details the Welsh Government relationship with the third sector including a funding code of practice and the development of the Third Sector Partnership Council between Welsh Ministers and the Third Sector.
- 4.3 The Compact has been seen as a key infrastructure support document that recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close cooperation between partners and the third sector to promote the well-being of communities. The Caerphilly Compact has benefitted from cross-sector support and a liaison committee, the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee administered by the local authority comprising statutory and third sector members along with elected members from the council. Over time all of the former Local Service Board (LSB) partners became signatories to the Compact in view of the importance of working with the third sector in achieving partnership aims,

- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Gwent Police
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (previously the Gwent Police Authority)
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

as well as significant other local partners

- Caerphilly Borough Town and Community Councils
- Caerphilly Business Forum.

During the transition period from LSB to Public Services Board, Natural Resources Wales were invited to join and attended the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee with other members as listed above. There has been a move to re-introduce Partnership Agreements in a number of areas in Gwent where they have lapsed and Caerphilly has been seen as a flagship in its approach to supporting the former Compact and therefore the Third Sector.

- 4.4 Caerphilly county borough has a vibrant and productive voluntary sector that plays an essential role in understanding the needs of local communities and delivers services for, and with them, underpinned by the Compact.
- 4.5 The most recent version of the Compact is the fifth such agreement, running from April 2013 to April 2017. Members have received verbal reports on the process to revise and update the most recent agreement and will recall the agreement at the June 2017 PSB meeting to recommend putting the Compact review on hold due to the development of the Caerphilly Well-being Plan and expected guidance on third sector agreements from Welsh Government.
- 4.6 The Caerphilly We Want Well-being Plan 2018-23 was published in May 2018 and work is now underway on the development of the Enablers/Action Area Delivery Plans. The third sector has been heavily involved throughout this process and is leading on the Volunteering theme on behalf of the PSB.

- 4.7 The Welsh Government guidance on third sector agreements (formerly the Compact) has yet to materialise; however, there are a number of Welsh Government publications that currently exist (hyperlinks at Background Papers):
- Third Sector Scheme (2014) - describing Welsh Government's relationship with the third sector and setting out its expectations for a funding code of practice in local agreements.
  - The Case for statutory compacts between Welsh local authorities and the third sector (2013) - a research study which includes a review of the requirements for successful compacts.
- 4.8 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out 7 well-being goals for Wales that all Welsh public sector bodies must aim to meet to ensure that future generations are able to meet their own needs. These goals are set out at 3.1 above. The Act, and its statutory guidance, recognises the essential role that the third sector has in contributing to improving well-being in Wales and requires the Public Services Board partners to work with the voluntary sector in achieving their aims.
- 4.9 The Third Sector Partnership Agreement, as the replacement for the former Compact, has been reviewed to align the roles of all the partners under the new planning arrangements and to allow for the future incorporation of the expected Welsh Government guidance. The draft third sector agreement is appended to this report for the comment of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and the current signatories.
- 4.10 The Welsh Government adopted a funding code of practice for the third sector in 2006 and the Compact has included a Funding Code of Practice since 2008, agreed by Caerphilly County Borough Council and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. The code of practice has been included in the revised Partnership Agreement, with specific references where funding practices differ between agencies.
- 4.11 Delivering the Well-being Plan in partnership requires a review of the role and responsibilities of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-Committee. The terms of reference were last reviewed in 2013, hence a review is overdue. The new administration of Caerphilly County Borough Council has nominated its representatives to the committee following the elections in May 2017. The 15 Elected Members representatives have experience of sitting on the committee. The terms of reference of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee will need to be reviewed over the coming months. Those PSB members that sit on the liaison committee will be part of the review.

## **5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 5.1 The report relates to the delivery of the Well-being Plan for Caerphilly County Borough and the involvement of the third sector in joint delivery through the associated action plans

## **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with the report.

## **8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report

## 9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 This report forms part of the consultation process on the revised Partnership Agreement.

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee consider the draft Third Sector Partnership Agreement to replace the current Compact agreement to take account of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and expected Welsh Government guidance on Partnership Agreements prior to presentation to Cabinet.

10.2 That the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee consider and agree any amendments to the draft Partnership Agreement.

## 11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To continue to foster a strong and vibrant third sector, delivering the “The Caerphilly We Want” Well-being Plan with the Caerphilly Public Services Board partners.

## 12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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Consultees: Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-committee  
Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Representatives Sub-committee

Martin Featherstone	Chief Executive Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Kathryn Peters	Corporate Policy Manager, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr E Aldsworth	Chair, Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub-Committee
Michelle Jones	Vice Chair VSLC / Caerphilly Parent Network
Paul Cooke	Senior Policy Officer

Background Papers:

‘Delivering Together’ Compact <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/My-Council/Partnership-working/Compact-2013-2017>

Welsh Government Third Sector Scheme <http://gov.wales/docs/dsilg/publications/comm/140130-third-sector-scheme-en.pdf>

The case for statutory compacts, research study

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/statutory-compacts-local-authorities-third-sector/?lang=en>

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft Caerphilly Third Sector Partnership Agreement 2018-2023