

Appendix 1 Shaping the Content for the Compact Agreement working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in the County Borough of Caerphilly April 2017 to March 2021

NEW POLICY DIRECTIONS

The following are new policy directions which will impact on Compact working, and will need to be reflected in the revised Compact Agreement April 2017 to March 2021, and in choosing joint areas of work activities for Compact Partners under the Annual Compact Action Plan. The Compact Agreement could be shaped radically differently, or just simply use the existing structure in incorporating the new policy directions.

1 KEY LEGISLATION

i) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This Act is about improving the **social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales**. It comes into implementation for public sector bodies from April 2016, replacing Local Service Boards with Public Service Boards, and introducing the following 7 wellbeing goals:

1. A more prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales.

The new Caerphilly Public Service Board will need to oversee an **assessment of local well-being** to be published by April 2017, and to set well-being objectives to meet local priorities in alignment with the 7 national wellbeing goals, and in accordance with the **Sustainable Development Principle**.

The Sustainable Development Principle is defined as acting *in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*. There are five ways of working that Caerphilly Public Service Board (and Public Bodies subject to the Act) will need to apply in showing they have taken into account the Sustainable Development Principle:

Long term – the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs.

Prevention – how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Integration – considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Collaboration – acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Involvement – the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

Source: Extract from **Welsh Government (2015) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 The Essentials**

Link: <http://thewaleswewant.co.uk/sites/default/files/Guide%20to%20the%20WFGAct.pdf>

Caerphilly Public Service Board will need to agree and publish a **Local Well-being Plan** by April 2018, which will set out:

Why the Board feels the objectives will contribute within the Caerphilly borough to achieving the 7 well-being goals, and how the Board has had regard to the local assessment of well-being in setting its objectives and steps to take. The Board will be required to carry out an annual review of the Well-being Plan, showing progress.

ii) **Social Services and Well-being Act 2014**

This is the most fundamental piece of Social Services reform for over 60 years. The Act brings together local authorities' duties and functions in relation to improving the well-being of people who need care and support and carers who need support. The Act will transform the way Social Services are delivered, through promoting people's independence and giving people a stronger voice and more control. The Act will promote equality, improve the quality of services and the provision of information people receive, as well as ensuring the right incentives for commissioners to achieve a shared focus on prevention and early intervention.

Under the Act local authorities are required to assess the needs in their areas for care and support, support for carers and preventative services and to provide or arrange for the provision of preventative services. The Act requires the promotion by local authorities of social enterprises, co-operatives, user led services and the third sector in the provision in their areas of care and support and support for carers. The Act requires the provision by local authorities of a service providing information and advice relating to care and support and support for carers and assistance in accessing it.

iii) **The Environment (Wales) Bill**

The Bill is aimed at planning and managing Wales' natural resources in a more sustainable and joined-up way and has been passed by the National Assembly for Wales. When law, it will put in place a stronger approach to tackle climate change with at least an 80% emission reduction target by 2050, and will help build resilience to climate impacts such as extreme temperatures and flooding.

iv) **Time table for transitional arrangements for Local Government Re-organisation Under Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill**

It is important to bear in mind the following proposed timetable for local government re-organisation, as it could well impact on compact delivery:

4th May 2017 Council Elections – Councillors to serve 3-year term until 1st April 2020.

May 2019 First Elections to New County Councils – New County Councils exist in shadow form until Vesting Day on 1st April 2020 (when existing Authorities will be abolished). The Shadow Authorities will exercise only preparatory functions. The newly elected Councillors to serve a 4-year term, and will have 3-years from 1st April 2020 to consolidate the new arrangements following re-organisation.

May 2023 Council Elections – Councillors to serve a 5 year term until May 2028.

2 POLICY DIRECTIONS

i) **Written Statement - Welsh Government's Principles Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty**

The Welsh Government has set out the principles which, it believes, should be the basis of working with communities, and will be the approach it will use when working with communities. The Principles acknowledge that traditional models, along with same levels of service, will not be possible in the future. They recognise Welsh Government's powers and limitations, and the need to empower communities and develop new relationships, particularly in contributing to the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Welsh Government sets the following Principles for Working with Communities:

- the involvement of communities, service users and organisations in defining problems and in the identification, design, delivery and evaluation of new approaches,
- recognition of shared responsibility to improve public services focused on outcomes and people's needs,
- mutual respect for the contributions of different partners in the process of designing and delivering services and improving outcomes, recognising roles will vary,
- valuing diversity and promoting equality,
- processes designed to recognise there are resources, capabilities and assets not just within public services but in communities too and ways should be found to release these and realise their potential to increase wellbeing,
- readiness to adopt and invest in new ways of working in policy and delivery
- transparency regarding how and by whom decisions will be taken.

The Welsh Government will advocate for other bodies working with communities to adopt these Principles. The Welsh Government will use various means to promote the Principles, including Ministerial Statements and Guidance, legislation, procurement of goods and services and the development of structures such as community forums, citizen panels and working groups. The Principles link to the five key ways of workings that public bodies are required to take into account in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This includes the importance of involving people and acting in collaboration with any other person.

Link:

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/workingcommunities/?lang=en>

II) **Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) response to the Welsh Government's consultation on Alternative delivery models in public service delivery**

The WCVA response raises pointers from the Voluntary Sector perspective, which will be useful to look at during the review of the Compact Agreement and Annual Compact Action Plan as follows:

- WCVA supports a variety of methods for funding the Voluntary Sector such as procured services, grant funding and social investment
- WCVA note - *A fundamental principle of any new alternative delivery model established is to ensure that the benefits generated are produced and retained locally*
- The role of county voluntary councils should be acknowledged in regard to their crucial function in providing generic information and advice on setting up and developing organisations as well as their important role in facilitating community engagement
- WCVA contends that the principles of the proposed action plan should correlate to the key elements that WCVA believes are necessary to realise the vision for local government in establishing a new relationship with local communities as set out in the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 which are:
 - Real engagement
 - Asset mapping
 - Asset / service transfer
 - Community-based funding
 - Brokerage
 - Third sector readiness
 - Collation and dissemination of learning
 - New competencies
 - An enabling strategic environment.

Link to WCVA response:

http://www.wcva.org.uk/media/2850100/alternative_delivery_models_in_public_service_delivery_wcva_eng.pdf

Link to Welsh Government (October 2015) Alternative Delivery Models in Public Service Delivery: An Action Plan for consultation:

<http://gov.wales/consultations/improving/alternative-delivery-models-public-service-delivery/?lang=en>

iii) **Welsh Government Updated Third Sector Scheme (February 2014)**

The statutory document outlines how the Welsh Government will work with the Voluntary Sector in Wales and includes an updated code of practice on funding. The Scheme takes into account the responses to the 2013 consultation - **Continuity and Change – Refreshing the Relationship between Welsh Government and the Third Sector.**

This updated Scheme has been reported to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and tallies closely with the current Caerphilly borough Compact Agreement.

iv) **Welsh Government Third Sector Scheme Draft Guidance Workshop 5th February 2016**

Emily Forbes (Deputy Chief Executive Officer GAVO) sits on the Welsh Government's working group on the Third Sector Scheme, and has the following feedback from the recently held workshop, and perspective of being on the group:

*Welsh Government is developing a **Guide to Local Third Sector Schemes** which has recently been consulted on in draft format. The guidelines seek to support vibrant and healthy communities and to help all parts of society to work together with the overall intent of supporting an environment where civil society and public services thrive together.*

*The **Legislative context** is a particularly important backdrop at the moment. The Social Services and Wellbeing Act at a service level, and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act at a macro level are both influencing and redefining public services. Also, we need to bear in mind the Local Government Reform white paper and ensuing legislation which will impact on the relationships locally.*

*The Third Sector has a **distinctive contribution to public service delivery** and local Compacts / Schemes need to be developed to offer a minimum standard for engagement between sectors and to establish a shared communications framework / 2 way conversations. Given the recent consultation on Alternative models of public service delivery (and WCVA response), do we need to feed some of these themes into a new Scheme to get some traction?*

Outcomes – *the Scheme needs to identify what outcomes will be delivered. Assume we will need to link to the new Wellbeing Plan here and ensure that outcomes are aligned. Outcomes need to be specific – what can be achieved by all parts of society working together rather than what organisations are delivering outside of the partnership.*

VSLC – *In Caerphilly, this is the mechanism for driving forward the Compact and delivering its commitments – do we therefore need to look at representation?*

Partners – *no definitive list suggested by WG but for local interpretation. The group needs to think about new PSB members, and if / how they will be included in the local Third Sector Scheme. Also, to bear in mind the reshaping of Caerphilly Forum – this will mean reshaping Voluntary Sector Representation in the future – should this be on a thematic basis to match up with Wellbeing plan themes?*

A helpful contents list for a revised Compact / local Third Sector Schemes should include:

- o Information on who local partners are*
- o Principles which underpin the relationship*
- o The demographics of the community*
- o How the WG Working with Communities principles and Principles for Public Engagement will be applied*
- o How the Scheme will be shared / discussed with the wider sector*

- o *What outcomes will be achieved by working together*
- o *How progress will be monitored*
- o *Links to the national Third Sector Scheme and 17 principles of the national Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector*

3 CONSIDERATION OF COMPACT PARTNERS COMMENTS

In consulting with Compact Partners on the review of the Compact Agreement the following comments were made and incorporated into the report on the Compact Review, which went to the 3rd December 2015 meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee:

- **Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner** - the review will also need to consider the impact of cuts on all organisations and each organisations capacity to deliver and attend meetings. There is a need to make meetings meaningful and outcome focussed rather than meeting for the sake of meeting.
- **South Wales Fire and Rescue Service** - the only issue will be the number of meetings required, with the Service covering all 10 Unitary Authorities.
- **GAVO:**
 - It would be helpful to reflect the wider legislative framework that sets the strategic context at the moment in addition to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014** and Public Service Reform;
 - The Welsh Government's new Principles for Working with Communities will need to be taken into account
 - The Welsh Government is currently drafting guidance likely to advocate a shift in language from local Compacts to local Third Sector Schemes. GAVO sits on the national working group preparing for this new guidance and would be able to advise of the need to reflect any changes locally in the Caerphilly borough. In the same vein, we may wish to consider language of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee itself and test whether this fits the new policy framework;
 - Membership may need to be reviewed to reflect new members of Public Service Boards (such as NRW);
 - A discussion on additionality and added value of partnership working would be useful and
 - it would be helpful to scope Third Sector Engagement in the existing Single Integrated Plan and in the transition to Wellbeing Plans.

TIMESCALES

16th March 2016 – Report to Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on proposal for reporting on Compact activities for 2016-17

February 2016 to July 2016 - Compact review meetings on drafting of the revised Compact Agreement

August to September 2016 – Policy Unit drafting text of revised Compact Agreement, and proposed Annual Action Plan

21st September 2016 – Update report to Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee

October 2016 – Review Group considers draft Compact Agreement, and proposed Annual Action Plan, with final revisions made by the Policy Unit

7th December 2017 – Proposed Compact Agreement April 2017 to March 2021, and Compact Action Plan April 2017 to March 2018 for approval of Committee

January 2017 - Caerphilly Public Service Board, and Caerphilly Council Cabinet approval and endorsement of Compact Agreement April 2017 to March 2021, and similar structures of ratification by the Compact Partner organisations.

April 2017 - Publication and launch event of new Compact Agreement