



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 15TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: COMPACT ACTION PLAN 2016-17 PROPOSALS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee 16th March 2016 committee members endorsed the proposals of the Compact Review Group for the Compact Annual Action Plan 2016-17 to be based on the proposed activities of Compact Partners with the Voluntary Sector as an interim measure pending the review of the Compact Annual Action Plan. Following the meeting all Compact Partners were contacted on their proposed activities of work with the Voluntary Sector for forming the content of the Annual Compact Action Plan 2016-17, with this report presenting the findings.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report presents suggestions received from Compact Partners for inclusion in a potential interim Annual Compact Action Plan for 2016-17, pending the full review of the Compact Annual Action Plan. Unfortunately few suggestions have been received, so the Committee is presented with three options to consider around forming a Compact Action Plan for 2016-17.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Compact is an agreement between organisations and the Voluntary Sector in the Caerphilly County Borough. The Compact recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close co-operation and sets out guidelines for how all parties should work together. The Compact is delivered and monitored through an annual Compact Action Plan, which provides a detailed programme of work for shared activities.
- 3.2 Under the review of the Compact Agreement and annual Compact Action Plan both will be aligned with the requirements under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The new Caerphilly Public Services Board is directing the partnership working around the legislative requirements of undertaking a local assessment of well-being and forming priorities for local action under the ensuing well-being plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 All Compact Partners have been invited (including Heads of Service at the Council) to shape the content of the interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17 by outlining their key activities with the Voluntary Sector. The following are the suggestions received:

i) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Customer Services - engaging with Partner organisations in delivering the Customer Service Strategy. Links could also be made through Customer Services receiving payments for Credit Unions, and supporting the Caerphilly county borough anti-poverty agenda.

Property Services - exploring the potential impact of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 on the Council's Asset Management Strategy for Buildings.

ii) Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Until the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) receives a policy steer from the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner, Jeff Cuthbert, the Office is not able to contribute anything concrete.

iii) GAVO

The difficulty is noted for Compact Partners to identify what activities to put in a Compact Action Plan without first seeing the kind of format / structure it would take. GAVO queries whether it is worth developing an interim Compact Action Plan using the well-being goals as a new structure to align partners' contributions under, as this could prove helpful in transitioning to new ways of working.

- 4.2 Unfortunately the level of response is not enough for the Policy Unit to shape a proposed Annual Compact Action Plan 2016-17 for the consideration of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. The last Compact Action Plan for 2015-16 is too dated to be used again, as it does not reflect recent policy developments. For example, the Future Generations legislation ushers in 7 well-being goals for collaborative partnership working in improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of localities. This work will be directed by the new Caerphilly Public Services Board in undertaking a local assessment of well-being (by April 2017) and forming a well-being plan (by May 2018), which will need to align with both the Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan.
- 4.3 In addition the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 is the most fundamental piece of Social Services reform for over 60 years, transforming the way Social Services are delivered with the voluntary sector playing a key part in service delivery, which will need to be built into future annual compact action plans. *Population assessments* looking at the care and support needs of individuals, including support for carers and preventative services under the Social Services legislation are currently being undertaken, but local Caerphilly borough data will not be coming out to later in the year, with the Gwent population assessment not being published until April 2017. The priorities to be set under the Caerphilly well-being plan following the completion of the well-being assessment will be crucial to align with Compact action plans, but these priorities will not be known until at least summer 2017.
- 4.4 Given the high level of uncertainty there are three options for the Committee to consider:
- i) For no interim Compact Action Plan to be formed for 2016-17;
 - ii) For the Council's Policy Unit to work with GAVO in producing a streamlined interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17, which will be run by Compact Partners for finalisation by July 2016;
 - iii) An alternative course of action to be followed.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Promoting equalities is a fundamental part of the work of Compact Partners and features prominently in the Compact Agreement, and Annual Compact Action Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None arising.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All Compact Partners have been invited to submit their suggestion for forming an interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 For the Committee to decide for:

- i) no interim Compact Action Plan to be formed for 2016-17;
- ii) the Council's Policy Unit to work with GAVO in producing a streamlined interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17, which will be run by Compact Partners for finalisation by July 2016;
- iii) an alternative course of action to be followed.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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