



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 28TH JUNE 2017

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE COMPACT, COMPACT ACTION PLAN AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT BY: KATHRYN PETERS - CORPORATE POLICY MANAGER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with an update on the review of the “Delivering Together” Compact Agreement.
- 1.2 To consider the alignment of the replacement Compact Action Plan with the forthcoming Public Services Board Well-being Plan.
- 1.3 To notify members of a proposed review of the Terms of Reference for the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The current “Delivering Together” Compact Agreement ran for a term from April 2013 to April 2017, associated delivery plans have run for 12-month terms. The agreement and action plan process were considered for review in 2016-2017, however the development of the Well-being Plan will not be complete until May 2018 and there is an opportunity to align the two complimentary planning and delivery arrangements.
- 2.2 The Terms of Reference of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee were last reviewed in 2013. The terms, appended to this report, state that they should be reviewed on a 3-yearly basis. Given the advent of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its required coproduction between the statutory, voluntary and private sectors in securing community well-being the terms of reference of committee should be refreshed to take account of shared objectives.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The most recent Compact Action Plan aligns to the Public Services Board’s single integrated planning process with delivery strands under Safer Caerphilly, Prosperous Caerphilly, Greener Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly and Learning Caerphilly. While this plan has been extended for a 12-month period activity and actions therein contribute to the well-being goals for Wales within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 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*

This report proposes a closer alignment between the Well-being Plan under development and the Compact agreement and delivery plan.

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.
- 4.2 The Compact is seen as a key infrastructure support document that recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close cooperation between partners. The Compact formalises the relationship and sets out how partners will work together to promote the well-being of communities. Whereas many local authority areas have allowed their Compacts to lapse, the Caerphilly Compact has benefitted from cross-sector support and a liaison committee.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The current iteration 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 that the Compact review was put on hold during 2016-17 due to changes in the landscape for securing the well-being of local communities and expected guidance on third sector agreements from Welsh Government.
- 4.5 The Welsh Government guidance is still in development; 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 Members of the Caerphilly Public Services Board, who sit on Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, are charged with developing a well-being plan for the area by May 2018 to run for a period of 5 years.
- 4.8 Bringing together the Compact action plan process and the Well-being Plan will strengthen and formalise the role of the voluntary sector in delivering together with the public and private sectors. Members will be aware that the current action plan follows the Public Services Board’s delivery arrangements. However there is a disconnect in this process as the two are separate documents. Partners are feeding both sets of delivery plans and the third sector is sitting outside of the main partnership plan for the county borough.
- 4.9 It is proposed that 2017-2018 is regarded as a transition year after which time the third sector agreement delivery plan will be part of the Well-being Plan for the area.

- 4.10 The third sector agreement, that is the replacement for the current Compact, will be reviewed over the coming months to align the roles of all the partners under the new planning arrangements and to incorporate the expected Welsh Government guidance.
- 4.11 Delivering the Well-being Plan in partnership will require a review of the role and responsibilities of the Voluntary Sector Liaison 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 15 Elected Members as its representatives to the committee following the elections in May 2017. It is proposed that the terms of reference are reviewed over the coming months with the aim of providing a revised set to the September 2017 Committee meeting for agreement.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and the current Compact agreement contribute to the well-being goals as set out in the Links to Strategy section above. The committee works in a way that is consistent with the sustainable development principle in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in that it involves those with an interest in the well-being of the area, it acts as a collaboration between the statutory and voluntary sectors, and looks to prevent and alleviate the issues that are affecting the well-being of local communities with the aim of improving the outcomes for individuals over the long term.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Promoting the equality of all individuals is implicit in the work of the voluntary and public sector. The committee and its work contributes to the current single integrated plan which has a strong equality theme. The proposals in the recommendations section seek to align the voluntary sector more closely with the Public Services Board's Well-being Plan and the well-being goals, one of which is a 'More Equal Wales'.

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 reflects the views of the consultees.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee treat the current financial year as a transition year with a view to allowing alignment between the Well-being Plan and the arrangements for delivery against the local third sector agreement, the Compact.
- 10.2 To revise the current Compact agreement to take account of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and expected Welsh Government guidance.
- 10.3 To revise the terms of reference for Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee with a report to be presented to the next meeting of the Committee for agreement.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To continue to foster a strong and vibrant third sector, coproducing 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: Cllr David Poole, Leader Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader
Martin Featherstone, Chief Executive Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
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Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection
Michelle Jones, Caerphilly Parent Network
Alison Palmer, Community Planning Coordinator
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 Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 Letter received from Carl Sargeant AM and Mark Drakeford AM addressed to all Public Service Boards