



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 3RD DECEMBER 2014**

**SUBJECT: THE COMPACT AGREEMENT AND ANNUAL COMPACT ACTION PLAN**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

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

1.1 The purpose of this report is threefold:-

- to update members on the purpose of the annual compact action plan as requested by the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Committee
- to feedback on the consultation on holding a Compact Awareness Event targeted at middle managers as requested by the Committee
- to present for the Committee's endorsement a proposed Compact Action Plan for 2015-16.

### **2. SUMMARY**

2.1 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, with further detail given in this report as to the compact action plan's purpose. Following a consultation with Compact Partners and contributors to the Compact Action Plan this report also presents a Compact Action Plan for 2015-16 for the Committee's endorsement.

2.2 The report further provides feedback following a consultation of Compact Partners on holding a Compact Awareness Event targeted at middle managers. While Compact Partner were generally supportive of the event, organisations felt they would have difficulties in fielding staff to attend this event, particularly as two of the Compact Partners noted they were going through a period of change, and questioned if holding an event was the best approach in raising awareness. Following discussions at a Voluntary Sector Representatives meeting convened by Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) it was felt a more targeted approach would be better where GAVO directly met individually with the Compact Partners in advancing commitment and delivery of the Compact Agreement in 2015-16.

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

3.1 The Voluntary Sector makes an important contribution to public service provision across the County Borough, and has a key role in **Caerphilly Delivers - The Single Integrated Plan 2013-17**.

3.2 The Compact Action Plan is integral for operationalising the strategic, high level document **Delivery Together Compact Agreement 2013-17** into practical shared work activities by the Compact Partners, which is reviewed on an annual basis for the four year period of the

Compact Agreement.

## 4. THE REPORT

### 4.1 The Annual Compact Action Plan

4.1.1 The Compact Agreement between organisations and the Voluntary and Community Sector in the Caerphilly borough is delivered through the annual compact action plan. This annual plan provides a detailed programme of work for shared activities by the Compact Partners, with progress monitored through the quarterly meetings of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on which all the Compact Partners sit. Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) signs up to the Compact Agreement as a Compact Partner representing the Voluntary and Community Sector in the Borough. The other Compact Partners with GAVO are:-

- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Gwent Police
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner Office
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Caerphilly county borough Community/Town Councils
- Caerphilly Business Forum.

4.1.2 Together with GAVO as the Compact Partner on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee sit an additional 25 Voluntary Sector Representatives elected every three years (numbers may vary slightly following elections) through GAVO's membership.

4.1.3 The Compact annual action plan focuses on activities around the five outcome areas of **Caerphilly Delivers – the Single Integrated Plan** which are: Prosperous Caerphilly, Learning Caerphilly, Safer Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly. Other key areas of focus for the compact action plan are volunteering and funding. A compact action plan annual report is produced every year, and launched at the June meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and thereafter distributed widely by the Compact Partners. The annual report serves to highlight the tangible achievements of working in partnership, with the Compact Action Report 2013-14 reporting on over 70 action areas.

4.1.4 Through the Voluntary Sector Representatives quarterly meetings convened by GAVO the representatives select activities from the Compact Action Plan that they would like to receive quarterly progress reports on.

4.1.5 Every autumn both the Compact Partners and officers contributing information on the activity areas across the Compact Partner organisations are consulted on what they would like to see in the compact action plan for the next financial year. The results of the consultation form a suggested template for the compact action plan which is presented to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee for approval.

### 4.2 Compact Partners Feedback on Holding a Compact Awareness Event targeted at Middle Managers

4.2.1 At the last Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (17th September 2014) there was discussion around the postponed Compact Awareness Event (4th November 2014) which was to be targeted at middle managers across the Compact Partner organisations. The Committee asked for all Compact Partners to be contacted to seek their views on holding such an event aimed at advancing commitment and delivery of the Compact in 2015-16. An email (with hard copy sent to committee members not on email) was sent seeking views on the following:

1. Does your organisation as a Compact Partner feel there is a need for such an event?
2. If such an event is to be held what do you think the scope should be and the target audience?

3. Would your organisation support such an event?
4. Would you be willing to help in developing the event?

4.2.2 Responses have been received from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, with discussions held with the Corporate Management Team (CMT) at the Council. The responses were remarkably similar:-

- All the Compact Partners asserted their commitment to the Compact agreement and felt there was awareness among their officers of the Compact Agreement.
- All of the Compact Partners noted their support of such an event, but were unable to help in developing the event because of capacity issues. Two Compact Partners noted they were going through a transitional stage with staff changes in terms of partnership working.
- Three Compact Partners noted that they would have difficulties in select an appropriate audience from within their own organisations to attend the event
- Three Compact Partners queried whether the event is necessary at this time with one querying whether the same information could be delivered/shared via a different medium.

4.2.3 The Council, while supportive of the event, felt the best way to raise awareness of officers to the Compact Agreement is through the management network and it has been arranged for GAVO to address the management network on the 12th December 2014.

4.2.4 The Voluntary Sector Representatives have considered these findings and it was felt that the best approach would be for GAVO to meet up individually with each of the Compact Partners to discuss how best to advance support for the Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan 2015-16 through their organisations.

### **4.3 Proposed Compact Action Plan for 2014-15**

4.3.1 Appendix 1 presents the proposed Compact Action Plan for the endorsement of the Committee following a consultation with Compact Partners and Compact text contributors over the autumn.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Promoting equalities is a fundamental part of the work of Compact Partners and features throughout the annual compact action plan. Equalities is embedded into all work around community planning and in implementing **Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan**.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None arising.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None arising.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 **Compact Action Plan 2015-16** - a consultation has been undertaken on the proposed Compact Action Plan with Compact Partners and Compact contributors from across the Compact Partner organisations over the autumn.

8.2 **Compact Awareness Event** – a consultation was undertaken with Compact Partners.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### 9.1 For members to:-

- note the purpose of the annual Compact Action plan
- to receive feedback from the Compact Partners on holding a Compact Awareness Event targeted at middle managers in the Compact Partner organisations, and the subsequent suggestion for GAVO to meet directly with each of the Compact Partners in advancing commitment and delivery of the Compact Agreement and annual action plan in 2015-16
- to endorse the proposed Compact Action Plan for 2015-16.

## **10. STATUTORY POWER**

### 10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Compact Action Plan 2015-16