

Meeting: Haringey Strategic Partnership Board

Date: 3 July 2008

Report Title: Progress Report: Haringey's Compact 'Working Better Together' from Development to Implementation.

Report of: Sharon Kemp, Assistant Chief Executive, Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications (PPPC)

Summary

This is the first progress report to partners since the Compact was launched in June 2006.

The report sets out:

- The Compact role within the local and national agenda including Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) and Haringey's Local Area Agreement (LAA) **(Point 5)**
- Compact achievements and work undertaken **(Point 6)**
- Development opportunities for the Haringey Compact highlighting the need for greater Compact awareness and increased Compact implementation **(Point 7)**
- Funding and Resources **(Point 8)**
- Way forward and recommendations **(Point 9)**

Recommendations

- i. To note the contents of this report including both progress made and opportunities to Compact implementation.
- ii. HSP to continue to champion the Compact and use it in its operation

For more information contact:

Name: Stephanie Rowland
Title: Grant and Projects Officer
Tel: 020 8489 6931
Email address: Stephanie.rowland@haringey.gov.uk

Background

4.1 Local Compacts govern the way that the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCS), statutory and private sectors work together. The purpose of the Compact is to improve the way that these partners work together. Through

Compacts the VCS's capacity can be better supported so that independent accountable voluntary organisations can do more to meet both their aims and those of statutory partners, thereby enhancing their contribution to the community.

4.2 Haringey's Compact forms the basis for partnership working, supporting stronger relationships, and greater community engagement. This is achieved through:

- creating clearer links and processes,
- using partners mutual strengths through improved communication,
- ensuring the best use of resources, reducing duplication and securing greater value for money,
- securing community empowerment by increasing representation and acting as effective advocates,
- improving consultation and developing joint working protocols built on efficient and effective services.

4.3 Following an extensive 2 year consultation process Haringey's Compact, titled 'Working BETTER Together', was launched on the 21st June 2007. 79 organisations comprising of 71 voluntary and community organisations, 2 private sector and 8 public sector bodies, including Haringey Council and the Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT), formally signed up to Haringey's Compact. This has now increased to 102 signatories.

4.4 This report has been informed by the following:

- Current Compact and policy developments at the national, regional and local level
- Feedback through outreach, training and events held within Haringey
- Targeted work undertaken by the Haringey Compact Implementation Group (HCIG) included a stakeholder exercise which took a snapshot of current engagement and commitment to the Compact.

5. The Compact role within local and national agenda including the HSP and the LAA

5.1 Local Compacts have continued to grow and in the future will exist within a new context which will strengthen the Compact, increase compliance and deliver greater value. Within this there are key national drivers which include:

- Commission for the Compact - a national independent body to oversee national, regional and local Compacts
- Compact Voice – represents the VCS in taking the Compact forward and supports the Local VCS.'
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 which strengthens the new LAA's from 2008 and states VCS representation on Local Strategic Partnerships and in the LAA's.
- The New Comprehensive Area Assessment
- Draft statutory guidance on implementing new local government performance framework,
- The Central – Local Concordat
- the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)

5.2 Whilst the Compact is not legally binding, the Government's commitments raise legitimate expectations in public law and breaches can be subject to judicial review. There are national and local examples of Compact being cited

in cases where public bodies were required in law to overturn non-Compact compliant decisions/actions.

5.3 The newly formed Compact Commission is an independent body established to work with stakeholders at a national and local level to build on the work and investment in the Compact and its codes of practice. It will carry out research on the impact of the voluntary sector LAA indicators 'A Thriving Third Sector' and 'Increased Formal Volunteering', and work to ensure that the Compact principles are at the heart of the new LAA's and the partnerships that underpin them. This is a key work stream detailed in the joint action plan 2008-09 between the Compact Commission, Compact Voice, Office of the Third Sector, Local Government Association and Communities for Local Government.

5.4 The guidance for the new LAA's issued in 2007 defines outcomes that promote the principles of Compact working. The current LAA agreed by the HSP includes mandatory targets to empower local people and the obligation to include a statement of community involvement. The Compact is a key mechanism to support the delivery of the LAA, as they increase the third sector's access and ability to contribute to policy, programmes and service delivery. The overarching VCS indicator for 07-08 is participation in regular volunteering.

5.5 Therefore, the Haringey Infrastructure Development Plan (HIDP) and the Community Link Forum (CLF) will look to strengthen the involvement and influence of the VCS in decision-making, policy making, place shaping and in the delivery of services. This includes the 32 VCS representatives that will sit across the thematic boards and the HSP from April 2008. To increase effectiveness the Compact is being embedded within these processes.

6. Compact achievements and work undertaken

6.1 Due to the way that we have worked in partnership with the VCS, the Haringey Compact has been recognised as a model of good practice at the 8th Annual Review of the Compact on relations between the Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

6.2 The Haringey Compact has received two Compact Commendations for Excellence from the Compact Commission, for Compact promotion and for driving the Compact forward.

6.3 Strong commitment remains from partners to implement the Compact. To support this there are Compact Link Officers, otherwise known as Compact Champions, identified across the different sectors.

6.4 The Haringey Compact Implementation Group (HCIG), a new multi agency steering group, has been established to oversee and monitor the effective implementation of Haringey's Compact. The HCIG is chaired by the VCS and has wide representation from the VCS. Partners including the College of North East London (CONEL) and the TPCT are exploring how the Compact can be better embedded in their Corporate Cultures and ways of increasing capacity for successful implementation.

6.5 There has been a range of work undertaken by Compact partners directly related and influenced by the Compact. This includes the adoption of Haringey

Council's Grant Aid Standards which aims to standardise the monitoring and implementation of grant giving across the Council

6.6 The HCIG has amended its work plan (Appendix A) to reflect a more direct targeted yearly action plan with a 10 agreed priorities in core areas such as funding and commissioning, communication and equality & diversity.

6.7 The HCIG are putting monitoring and evaluation systems in place to measure effective implementation of the Compact and changes to relationships between sectors.

7. Development Opportunities to strengthen Compact implementation

7.1 The HCIG are still developing awareness of the principles of the Compact and their practical application. The Compact aims to change cultures and this invariably takes time.

7.2 We need to ensure visibility of the Compact in key strategies and plans.

7.3 The Compact needs to be a mediating document that the VCS are confident using when addressing issues that can arise between partners.

7.4 The issue of funding and procurement is a key concern for the VCS. Future funding and commissioning processes need to be aligned to the Compact.

8. Funding and Resources

8.1 Resources for developing and implementing the Compact have been provided by mainstream Council funding with enhancements from other public bodies including TPCT and CONEL. These resources continue to support successful implementation of the Compact and maintain engagement.

8.2 The Compact will remain a priority through resources from Haringey Council and partners.

9. Way Forward and Recommendations

9.1 Significant progress is being made in the implementation of Haringey's Compact.

9.2 The leadership role of the HSP was fundamental in developing the Compact and was beneficial in securing multi agency engagement. Regular reviews and updates presented to the HSP will be important in continuing to embed Compact principles.

9.3 The HCIG will continue to deliver the priorities within their work plan to ensure the Compact becomes a way of working rather than a document (Appendix A).

9.4 Significant promotional work is needed in both sectors to raise levels of awareness of the Compact. Further support is needed to practically promote the Compact to people on the frontline of the Compact relationship, including legal teams, commissioners, voluntary sector trustees, contract managers and policy and procurement officers.

9.5 Therefore, this report recommends that:

- HSP and partners note the contents of this report including both the progress made and the opportunities to Compact implementation.
- HSP to continue to champion the Compact and use it in its operation

10.0 Chief Financial Officer Comment

10.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted over the contents of this report and notes that resources exist in the Voluntary Sector team along with contributions from other public bodies to continue successful implementation and engagement of the Compact.

10.2 It is important that the HSP supports and promotes the on-going use of the Compact in delivering LAA outcomes in partnership with the VCS.

11.0 Head of Legal Services Comments

11.1 The Head of Legal Services notes the contents of the report, and advises that the legal implications have been set out in the body of the report.

12.0 Head of Equalities Comments

12.1 The Compact Group reflects the diversity of Haringey community. It involves a wide range of local organisations and has specific focus on involving groups from all equalities strands, including Black and Ethnic minority community organisations; Women's organisations; Faith groups; Organisations representing young people; Older People; Disability organisations and LGBT groups.

12.2 The aims, ethos and methods of operation of Compact reflect equality and community cohesion agenda to which this Council is committed. It promotes inclusiveness through the broad range of its membership and engagement methods; sustainability of communities through capacity building; equality in service provision through support to groups in regard to funding issues, and cohesion through recognition for the role and contribution of local groups in helping to make Haringey a better place to live and work.

12.3 The draft work plan for 2008/09 will help advance equality through a number of initiatives, for example:

- i. Work to develop the ability to measure engagement of Black and Minority Ethnic and other groups in strategic policy developments.
- ii. Support for infrastructure development of Black and Ethnic minority groups.
- iii. Delivery of recognition for the positive role of young in the life of the borough by working for greater involvement of young people and their organisations in the Haringey Strategic Partnership;
- iv. Working for improved outcomes for children and young people by brokering effective joint working between statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations working with or providing services to children, young people and their families

12.4 Compact will continue to be monitored for its effectiveness and for its equalities impact, and where necessary, changes will continue to be made in light of experience.

13. Conclusion

13.1 The pace of change in the funding landscape means the Compact is more important than ever and needs to be strengthened. It is difficult to predict the

long term effects of a big shift towards commissioning and contestability. So, it will be important to ensure that processes/ models of commissioning reflect the principles of the Compact.

14. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

14.1 Appendix A HCIG Work Plan 2008/09