

## **LOCAL VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT FOR ROCHFORD DISTRICT**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report introduces a draft local Compact for Members' consideration and comment.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The National Compact is a partnership agreement established in 1998 between the voluntary and community sector and Government to improve their relationship for mutual advantage. The Compact is geared towards 'getting it right together rather than getting it wrong alone' and sets out how these organisations will engage with each other through Codes of Good Practice.
- 2.2 Local Compacts aim to do this locally between the sector, councils and other local public bodies. They provide a framework to deliver meaningful and significant benefits to communities and the individuals within them and to effect lasting change in the relationship between the sectors, by building on good foundations.
- 2.3 It is important to realise that a Compact is not a legally binding document or contract, or a service level agreement, or a funding guarantee. It is a statement of principles on which to build and develop relationships.
- 2.4 There is a requirement from Government to have a local Compact in place by April 2005 and it is highly likely that they will feature as a key line of enquiry within the future CPA regime.
- 2.5 The draft Rochford Compact is attached as Appendix 1.

### **3 OVERVIEW OF THE ROCHFORD COMPACT**

- 3.1 A draft Rochford Compact has been drawn up and will form the basis of an agreement between local voluntary and community sector organisations, Rochford District Council, Castle Point & Rochford Primary Care Trust and Essex County Council, setting out how we will work together in a series of Codes of Practice. Commitment to this Compact will enable us to:
- maximise the benefit to the local community through working together and pooling knowledge, expertise and other resources

- better understand the needs of the local community and how they might best be met through collaborative working
- improve understanding and build on the relationships across the whole of the statutory, voluntary and community sectors covering the district of Rochford
- develop joint plans further which will better identify and address the needs of the community.

#### **4 WAY FORWARD**

- 4.1 The Compact framework will be supplemented in due course by a more formal agreement of joint plans setting out the detail around the resources available, what will be delivered, by whom, by when and the measures of success. This will take the form of Service Level Agreements, which we currently have in place with various organisations.
- 4.2 The draft agreement has been developed and shared with Local Strategic Partnership members to ensure their ownership and to allow the opportunity for wider feedback. Key milestones are now as follows:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
RDC members consider draft Compact and covering report	19/1/05
Consultation feedback and initial sign-up from organisations	By 18/2/05
Final revisions to Compact	By 25/2/05
RDC members sign-off Compact	17/3/05
Publish Compact	By 31/3/ 05
Launch	April 05
Development of any appropriate SLAs	Post April 05

#### **5 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Strategic Risk**

Partnership working is a central delivery mechanism for improved services and is reinforced through Compact agreements that are highly likely to feature as a key line of enquiry within the future CPA regime. There is therefore a risk to future CPA scoring if we do not have one in place.

##### **5.2 Resource Risk**

No additional resources required.

**5.3 Operational Risk**

Without a Compact in place, it may later be difficult to establish productive working arrangements with voluntary and community groups.

**5.4 Reputation Risk**

There is the potential for an adverse impact on reputation if we do not have a local Compact in place.

**5.5 Regulatory Risk**

There is a Government requirement for local authorities to have a Compact in place by April 2005, however, it is not a legal requirement.

**6 RECOMMENDATION**

**6.1 It is proposed that the Committee RESOLVES**

That, subject to any Member comment on the details, the draft Rochford Compact be agreed.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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**Background Papers:-**

None

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