
REPORT TO:	Housing and community services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	March 11th 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	M Alflat	OPEN/
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Compact	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:HCS07

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Council agrees to adopt the Derbyshire Compact at its launch in the county.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To update members on progress made in relation to Compacts by the County joint working party.

4.0 Executive Summary

4.1 Compacts are a central government initiative designed to promote good practice between statutory and voluntary agencies at both a national and local level.

4.2 At a local level Derbyshire County Council policy unit has led on developing a countywide compact and this was presented to and accepted by their cabinet in February 2003.

4.3 The work involved in developing this compact led to the formation of a working group who have initiated and overseen development of a joint compact for Derbyshire.

4.4 The working group are looking to arrange a launch of the Compact at which different organisations will adopt the core Derbyshire Compact and then go on to develop locally based action plans.

4.5 Progress on the adoption of a compact has been reported to the Local Strategic Partnership who it is envisaged would be heavily involved in development of a local action plan.

5.0 Detail

5.1 Compacts are a central government initiative launched in 1998 and designed to promote good practice between statutory and voluntary agencies at both a national and local level. At a national level the compact is a memorandum concerning relations between the Government and the voluntary and community sector. At a

local level other public bodies are expected to adopt and adapt the Compact to suit their relationship with the voluntary and community sector. All statutory agencies are required to have one in place by March 31st 2004.

- 5.2 As a supplement to developing a compact the Home Office have also issued five accompanying codes of good practice relating to Community Groups, Funding, Black and Ethnic Minority Voluntary and Community Organisations, Volunteering and Consultation and Policy Appraisal. It is likely that these issues would be explored in the development of a local compact or local action plan.
- 5.3 At a local level Derbyshire County Council policy unit has led on developing a countywide compact and this was presented to and accepted by their cabinet in February 2003. The compact is attached as appendix 1.
- 5.4 In order to move the process on for a joint compact the County Council together with the Councils for Voluntary Service and Derbyshire Rural Community Council then determined to hold a workshop on July 10th to which all statutory organisations requiring a compact to be in place by 2004 were invited e.g. Primary Care Trusts, Police, District Councils, the Learning and Skills Council.
- 5.5 Flowing from the July 10th event it was agreed to set up a Joint working group which would develop and implement an action plan relating to developing a joint compact for the county. Although there were no clear resolutions the consensus at the original July event appeared to be that District based compacts would follow the Derbyshire model but reflect local needs.
- 5.6 At the LSP Shadow Board meeting of August 27th 2003 it was agreed that Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) and Malcolm Roseburgh (SDDC) should attend the joint working group as South Derbyshire representatives.
- 5.7 The first meeting of the group was held on 26th November and attended by officers of Derbyshire County Council, one representative from a district Council (South Derbyshire), two representatives from PCTs, two CVS representatives and the Rural Community Council.
- 5.8 It was agreed that signing up to a common core Compact was the way forward, as originally agreed at the Winding Wheel Workshop, along with the future development of locally generated Action Plans.
- 5.9 In order to progress this it was decided to again consult the key statutory agencies on the Compact document and use joint working group members to contact their respective sector organisations and other related public bodies. Any feedback or suggested amendments from the consultation would be taken on board at the Compacts next Annual Review.
- 5.10 It was further agreed that the joint working group should become the 'Compact Steering Group', overseeing development and conducting an Annual Review. It would meet 3 times per year.
- 5.11 The working group were keen that the process meant something in practical terms and avoided becoming a paper exercise to fulfil statutory guidelines. The Compact would need rolling out and implementing with all relevant staff informed of its existence for it to have a real impact on practice and working relationships between agencies.

5.12 Lastly, it was agreed that DCC Policy Unit would arrange a launch date for the Compact, possibly at the Derbyshire Partnership Forum meeting in March. Following this implementation would begin.

5.13 The joint Compact Working Group is scheduled to meet in February to monitor progress and finalise arrangements for the launch.

5.14 It is anticipated that should the Council agree to adopting the Derbyshire Compact then a local action plan would be formulated, developed and overseen by the Local Strategic Partnership.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Corporate Implications

7.1 An effective relationship with the voluntary and community sector is critical to delivering the Corporate plan.

8.0 Community Implications

8.1 Adoption of the Compact and implementation of a future local action plan will be of direct benefit to the community.

9.0 Conclusions

9.1 Adoption of the Compact will meet a statutory requirement and begin the process of developing a more effective relationship between the District Council, other statutory bodies and the local voluntary and community sector.

10.0 Background Papers

10.1 None.

