

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Board Meeting Thursday 15th January 2004

Agenda Item 5

Compact for South Derbyshire

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

Background Information

General

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 2004.

In addition to the 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 any local compact.

Local

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. 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.

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.

Update

At the LSP Shadow Board meeting of August 27th 2003 it was agreed that Jo Smith (CVS) and Malcolm Roseburgh (SDDC) should attend the joint working group as South Derbyshire representatives.

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.

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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 addition of locally generated Action Plans.

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.

It was further agreed that the joint working should become the 'Compact Steering Group', overseeing development and conducting the Annual Review. It would meet 3 times per year.

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.

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.

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