

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
29th November, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Yasseen (in the Chair); Councillors Beaumont, Brookes, Clark, M. Elliott, R. Elliott, Jarvis, Khan, McNeely, Mallinder, Russell, Short, Walsh and Williams.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Marriott.

ROTHERHAM COMPACT

Councillor Yasseen, Chairman, welcomed Waheed Akhtar, Voluntary Sector Liaison Officer, Janet Wheatley and Shafiq Hussain from Voluntary Action Rotherham, and Carole Haywood, Rotherham Partnership Manager, and explained the purpose of the seminar and how it was vital to forge good working partnerships with the voluntary and community sector, which had been highlighted in the Improvement Plan.

The powerpoint presentation highlighted:-

- What is the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- Voluntary and Community Sector Size.
- The Voluntary and Community Sector People.
- The Voluntary and Community Sector Income.
- The Voluntary and Community Sector Impact.
- The Voluntary and Community Sector Networks.
- Rotherham Compact and its Context.
- Status of the Compact and what needed to improve.
- Where are we doing now with the Compact.
- What do we need to do with the Compact.
- How services are using the Compact.
- Timeline.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- Financial fragility of the sector with reserves and the Charity Commission guidelines.
- Promotion of the Community Leadership Fund.
- Use of Voluntary Action Rotherham as an organisation able to conduct DBS checks.
- Potential for the Compact in Rotherham.
- Opportunities and challenges for the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- Bringing together cohesion and a sense of belonging.
- Partnership initiatives and communication and feedback.
- Funding streams and viability of the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- Huge resource and access potentials.
- Circulation of the Voluntary and Community Sector bulletin.

REPORT FOR INFORMATION - 29/11/16

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance and officers for their informative presentation.