

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality, and Young People's Issues Delegated Powers
2.	Date:	16 th January 2012
3.	Title:	Rotherham Compact update
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

To update Members on developments with the Compact and seek endorsement for the adoption of the revised Rotherham Compact based on the National Renewed Compact.

6. Recommendations

Elected Members are asked to:

- 6.1 **Adopt the revised Rotherham Compact and Introduction to the Rotherham Compact based on the National Renewed Compact.**
- 6.2 **Note that there will be a programme of awareness raising within the Council.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 What is the Rotherham Compact?

The Rotherham Compact is an agreement between public sector organisations who are members of the Local Strategic Partnership and voluntary and community organisations in Rotherham (referred to collectively as the voluntary and community sector: VCS). It sets out commitments on both sides to improve the way in which public organisations and the VCS work together for the benefit of communities and citizens.

The Compact enables the public sector and the VCS to get the most out of partnership working by meeting their respective commitments.

Implementing the Rotherham Compact will help partners to achieve:

- Equity in relationships
- Informed policy decisions, based on the expert knowledge of groups working directly with local people
- More appropriate funding that more closely reflects the needs of users
- Progress towards a more equal society, by identifying and tackling inequality and discrimination
- Value for money.

A local Compact dispute resolution procedure was approved in July 2011.

7.2 Revised local and national Compact

During 2010 a number of local Compacts, including the Rotherham Compact, were updated to take account of the revised national Compact, which simplified, clarified and did away with some duplication. It now consists of three sections:

- involvement in policy development,
- allocating resources and commissioning, and
- achieving equality

Following the change of government in May 2010 the Coalition Government published a Renewed National Compact, together with a supplementary document entitled 'The Compact Accountability and Transparency Guide', in December 2010 after a national consultation exercise.

The substance of the renewed national document remained unchanged, and did not necessitate a major revision of the local compact. Voluntary Action Rotherham has produced a Rotherham Compact (Appendix 2) and an Introduction to the Rotherham Compact (Appendix 1), based on the text of the Renewed National Compact, and it is recommended that this is now adopted as the Rotherham Compact. Paragraph 19.7 has been updated to reflect the

recent change which removed the requirement to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

A programme of awareness raising will be developed within the Council to ensure wider knowledge and understanding of the Compact and compliance with Compact principles.

8. Finance

None arising directly from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Future guidance is awaited following the reviews of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) and the broader criminal records regime, which has implications for paragraph 19.7 regarding a single check covering more than one volunteering position. There is also uncertainty over funding for CRB checks which may impact on future provision of free checks.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

As in paragraph 7 above.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Introduction to the Rotherham Compact (Appendix 1)
Rotherham Compact (Appendix 2)

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