

**14 March 2016**

## **Community & Health Committee**

### **Brentwood Compact**

**Report of:** *Kim Anderson, Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager*

**Wards Affected:** *All wards*

**This report is:** *Public*

#### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1.** The Compact is an agreement between statutory authorities and the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The Compact principles are set out in the National Compact which was refreshed in 2010 by the Coalition Government. There is also an Essex Wide Compact which a number of local authorities have signed up and some local district/borough/city authorities have developed their own local Compacts. The draft Brentwood Compact set out the principles of how the local statutory bodies will work with the local voluntary and community sector.

#### **2. Recommendations**

**That Members agree to:**

- 2.1 Sign up to the Brentwood Compact on behalf of Brentwood Borough Council and adhere to the principles as set out in Appendix A.**
- 2.2 Sign up to the Essex Compact on behalf of Brentwood Borough Council**

#### **3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1** The Compact is an agreement between statutory authorities and the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The Compact principles are set out in the National Compact which was refreshed in 2010 by the Coalition Government.
- 3.2** As well as the National Compact, most areas in England also have a local Compact, which interprets the principles set out in the Compact to reflect local need and circumstances.
- 3.3** The National Compact focuses on five key outcomes. These are:

- A strong, diverse and independent civil society
- Effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services
- Responsive and high-quality programmes and services
- Clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services
- An equal and fair society

3.4 A local Compact is a mutually agreed document outlining an approach to partnership working and principles and commitments that are shared across sectors. Following these principles and commitments it has enabled communities to benefit from greater involvement in policy design, improved reach and understanding, better commissioning and procurement, and better support for the vital role of voluntary and community sector organisations.

3.4 Signatories can include representation from councils, voluntary sector infrastructure organizations, healthcare organizations, social care organisations, police and fire, housing associations, together with new commissioners such as the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3.5 Central themes of the local Compacts are:

- Funding arrangements, include procurement
- Consultation and involvement in policy and service development
- Promoting and advancing equality
- Supporting the independence of the voluntary and community sector
- Good volunteering practice
- Working together to continually improve the relationship between sectors.

3.6 It is proposed that a Brentwood Compact working group is established to support and promote and encourage sign up to the local Compact with representatives from the local statutory services and the local Voluntary and Community Sector. There will be an initial launch event to get partners to sign up to the Brentwood Compact. The working group will also establish an annual action plan which will be regularly updated against progress made.

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

4.1 Currently Brentwood does not have a local Compact agreement in place, so officers looked at other local Essex authorities who have their own

Compacts to establish a draft document that would be circulated to local public and voluntary and community sector bodies to agree the principles and to gauge what local organisations would look at signing up to it.

## **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Brentwood Compact will give a clear sense of how the statutory and voluntary sector work together, and what to expect of each other. There will be increased benefit to the local communities with both sectors working together to meet local needs and building stronger partnership arrangements. It will also enable both sectors to better manage disputes or disagreements that may arise by clearly outlining expectations.

## **6. References to Corporate Plan**

- 6.1 This sits under the Community and Health strand to work with community and voluntary organisations to develop the priorities for community development.

## **7. Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

**Name & Title: Ramesh Prashar, Financial Services Manager**

**Tel & Email 01277 312513 / [Ramesh.prashar@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:Ramesh.prashar@brentwood.gov.uk)**

- 7.1 There are no additional financial implications with the Brentwood Compact. However the Compact does set out the principles by which each sector will work with each other, such as considering a range of ways to resource VSOs; removing barriers to enable smaller VSOs to access funding; and to ensure that the widest possible range of organisations can be involved in the provision of services.

- 7.2 The Council will also need to assess the impact on all stakeholders before reducing or ending funding, and to give a minimum of six months notice, in writing when ending any funding agreement.

## **8.0 Legal Implications**

**Name & Title: Saleem Chughtai, Legal Services Manager**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312860 / [saleem.chughtai@bdtlegal.org.uk](mailto:saleem.chughtai@bdtlegal.org.uk)**

- 8.1 The Compact is not a legally binding agreement, or a Service Level Agreement or a guarantee of funding but an agreed set of principles that the local statutory bodies and the voluntary and community sector sign up to.

8.2 There will be a requirement for partners to sign up to the principles as set out in the Compact.

8.3 Some Voluntary Sector Organisations are 'public bodies' for the purposes of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970.

## **9.0 Appendices to this report**

Appendix A –Draft Brentwood Compact

## **10.0 Background documents**

National Compact

Essex Compact

### **Report Author Contact Details:**

**Name:** Kim Anderson

**Telephone:** 01277 312634

**E-mail:** [kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk)