

Dumfries & Galloway Compact

Wigtownshire Awareness Raising Event, 24 February 2009 at The Millennium Centre, Stranraer

Present

Vikki Binnie	Apex Scotland
Eileen Bryant	Wigtown CVS
Pat Dobson	Riverside Day Centre
Harry Hay	Area Management Team Dumfries & Galloway Council (DGC)
Joyce Harkness	Dumfries & Galloway Federation of CVS
Philip Heron	New Hope Support Group
Wendy Jesson	Community Planning, DGC
Clark Loge	Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary
Murdo Macleod	Building Healthy Communities
Anne Matley	Anti Social Behaviour Team DGC
Jayne Murphy	Fibro & ME Support Group
Susan McCalman	Riverside Day Centre
Susan McGhie	YMCA
Brian McIlwraith	Wigtown Community Transport
Jessie Robertson	Stranraer Credit Union
Peter Ross	Building Healthy Communities
Robert Sneddon	Dumfries & Galloway Coalition of Disabled People
Viv Smith	Volunteer Action Dumfries & Galloway
Mary Wilson	Home-Start Wigtownshire

Partnership Working & Joint Undertakings

1. What do you think about content?

- More voluntary sector can be tapped into
- Use of additional forums
- Inventory of Voluntary Sector needed
- This is difficult if we don't know who's out there in the voluntary sector
- Heightened awareness of what and who is out there
- Partners can see who they can work with
- Personnel changes – better communication and trust
- Understanding of what organisations do
- Good to have this information written down and recorded in accessible format
- We're doing this already, just haven't formalised it on paper before
- Partnership working is a 2-way process – needs commitment from each side;

2. Does it fulfil their expectations / present challenges / is something missing?

- Voluntary sector can be used to “tick boxes”
- Is it an equal partnership between voluntary and statutory?

- No information on voluntary organisations can be accessed
- Mapping / list of voluntary organisations accessible to all
- Who is going to hold organisations (stat & vol) accountable?

Consultation

1. What do you think about content?

- Good aim to have – how is it going to be achieved?
- More actions needed on consultations
- Consultations need to be jargon-free – vol orgs need to understand what they're being consulted on and have confidence to reply
- Consultation needs to be accessible (re content & e.g. venues/print versions)
- Need effective timescale for consultations
- More feedback on participation
- More time & resources needed

2. Does it fulfil their expectations / present challenges / is something missing?

- What are the National Standards for Community Engagement?
- We need better coordination of consultations – and -
- Clearer understanding of obligations & responsibilities when consulting/being consulted with
- Feedback is missing & actions from feedback
- Realistic outcomes from consultations – capacity & timescales
- Outcomes are not attainable
- Good aim to have “clear” in the wording – some people not getting the chance to participate
- Reality can very often be different from the aim
- Smaller organisations – how do they get their voice heard?
- We work with DGC re consultation – WCT has carried out 3 transport surveys with the Council

Representation

1. What do you think about content?

- Totally agree with Statement 2.
- Question on “how” transparent decision making is
- Can we appeal against decision making?
- Feedback needed
- Statement should be changed
- More detail needed in first statement

2. Does it fulfil their expectations / present challenges / is something missing?

- Second sentence looks alright but what does it actually mean?
- Commitment not balanced – more expected from voluntary sector (paid / unpaid staff)
- Obstacles from statutory sector
- Local area management - representation is a two way process
- Area committee is well informed via the CP Team
- DGC restructure has led to an enhanced area management structure – could possibly have Third Sector representation on the Area Management Team
- Need a clearer process for vol org representation, particularly on partnerships that have funding available.
- We also need to know what partnerships/working groups are out there that the vol sector should be involved with/a member of.

Resources

1. What do you think about content?

- Constant change of roles in organisations – how can this be better managed
- Longer term funding should be available (up to 5 years or more)
- What is Core funding? Better definition needed
- Which services should be core funded?
- Strain on staff and the loss to project is valuable staff do leave
- Lack of clarity on what groups do and who they work with
- Redundancy payments and pension schemes – funding should be available for this

2. Does it fulfil their expectations / present challenges / is something missing?

- Agreement that if criteria reached, funding would be given
- Need more info/discussion on Full Cost Recovery
- Full cost recovery – how is this going to work?
- Successful pilot projects – could this be incorporated into Core Funding?
- Recognition of running costs from government projects?
- Knock on effect on client group of insecurity of project
- New Area Management Team looking at a coordinated approach to support for funding applications
- Some vol orgs have In Kind support, e.g. premises and ITC via DGC – *there needs to be equality/a consistency of approach here*

Compact Record Form and Compact Champions - Feedback

1. Why sign up?

- Already signed up – 5 organisations
- If stat bodies don't sign up, what is the point of voluntary organisations signing up?
- Positive feedback on idea of Compact
- More information needed for smaller groups
- What is the negative to voluntary organisations if they do not sign up?

- Compact should be bringing benefits to voluntary organisations
- Need to “sell” the Compact more – 1/2 lines on the advantages of the Compact, e.g.
 - Better use of resources
 - Access to information
 - Sharing best practice
 - Better communication
- How do you know who has signed up?

2. Compact Champions

- Another level of beaurocracy?
- Champions could cascade Compact info/training
- Remind agencies of Compact
- Has it been cascaded to all levels within Statutory Bodies – need Public Agency Staff training
- Compact has been on agenda for Area Management Team – is this the same in all areas?
- Prohibitive to boards & employees who are trying to source funding etc
- Reminds Statutory organisations of both their and your positions
- Reinforces job responsibilities & working together

3. Record Form

- Need separate forms for voluntary to statutory
- Positive use of record form (e.g. constructive feedback instead of just a complaint)
- Form not to be used on every occasion when partner organisations meet
- Who is the person who acts on the information?
- Feedback on result of comment / complaint
- Negative contact – organisation aware of complaint at the time made
- Does this form invite conflict?
- Form needs to be accessible

Recommendations

1. Map the voluntary sector & find out who’s out there
2. A Compact Communications Strategy for public agencies
3. Representation – who and on what – a process/protocol
4. Feedback to us on our thoughts today