

Compact Champions - 10th Dec '09 12:30-13:30

Area 10, Antechamber, Civic Centre, Hounslow

AGENDA

- Compact Intro and Compact Champions – 15min
- Current compact issues – 10min
- Run through JDs – 15min
- Terms of Reference – 10min
- AOB – 10min

The agenda is a rough layout of the allocated time we have. Please note, there will be some time after the session to catch up on any other developments and further networking.

Compact champion session write up – Thur 10th Dec '09

- Presentations outlining a background to the Compact and of Compact Champions were carried out by Charlotte Brewster and Fuad Uddin. Comments and questions following these presentations highlighted that there was a lack of knowledge about the Compact within the public sector, with uncertainty surrounding how it relates to specific work streams. Those third sector organisations that were present, although aware of the Compact, were not convinced of its impact and weight as a document.
- Areas in which the relationship between the third sector and the public sector was then 'put to the floor', with attendees asked to highlight how the local Compact could be revised to meet those challenges. The main points raised were as follows;
 - Knowledge of the Compact is not well established in either the public or third sector; and a considerable amount of work needs to be carried out in order to increase that awareness; ideas such as a 'Compact space' in Hounslow Matters were raised
 - The Compact as it currently stands is not fit for purpose; it needs to be revised and improved to tackle issues such as commissioning
 - The local authority has too high expectations of the third sector
 - The local authority has efficiency issues which need to be addressed such as setting the Invitation To Tender dates for commissioning
 - Cross departmental engagement from the Local Authority would be beneficial to the third sector
 - The local authority should ensure that contractual payments to the third sector should be made upfront (not in arrears) and should be promoting local (not national) VCS organisations.
 - Full cost recovery should be recognised in all circumstances by the local authority
 - A number of third sector organisations in the Borough are not 'set up' to carry out commissioning and currently don't have the expertise to handle it.
 - General understanding of the third sector by public sector agencies is poor
 - The Compact needs more 'bite' to be useful
 - The perception of faith-based groups by public sector agencies needs to be addressed. Can they be funded without showing favouritism?
 - The Compact needs to have an associated action plan and time line to ensure that it is implemented as a document
 - Examples of how it has been positively used by the local authority could be identified and summarised.
 - The Compact needs to be refreshed to develop a sustainable, continuous document. Resources need to be allocated to it (for publicity and its implementation)
- The group were then asked to comment on documents outlining the roles and responsibilities of Compact Champions, as well as the terms of reference for the each champion. No comments were made with the documents as such, but are reminded that they are free to provide further comments directly to Charlotte Brewster (Charlotte.Brewster@hounslow.gov.uk) or Fuad Uddin (fuad@cvshounslow.org.uk)
- **Actions – The group have been asked to outline specific tasks which they can achieve as Compact champions for the next Compact Champion meeting.**