

COMPACT Update

Summary

The draft Compact is out for consultation. The VCS Assembly is directly referred to in the main document and is implicated in the structures and processes for the Compact going forward. In this paper the Board is asked to consider if it is content with the role of the Assembly as proposed in the consultation document and, if satisfied, to consider the process for taking forward appointments of representatives to the Compact Implementation Group and the Compact Disputes and Resolution group. In addition the Board is asked to consider if it is satisfied that the draft Compact has taken into account the work of the VCS Funding Task and Finish Group

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

1. Consider the specific references to the VCS Assembly as set out in the draft consultation document - it is recommended that they are accepted without amendment.
2. Consider if it is content with the role of the Assembly in the proposed Compact Implementation and Compact Resolution groups and decide if these need to be referenced more clearly in the Compact Document.
3. Make suggestions for the process of recruiting the required VCS representation.
4. Consider if the draft Compact takes into account the work of the Funding task and finish group.
5. Note the date for the Annual Compact Conference
6. To ensure that each Forum of Interest has sent in a response to the consultation by the closing date of 18th September.

1. The Role of the VCS Assembly as specified in the draft Compact Document

All the actions, specifically naming the VCS Assembly, made in the Compact consultation document have been identified and are listed below as excerpts, in italics, together with a reference to where they are to be found in the consultation document. The full compact consultation document is appended to this paper and the relevant actions highlighted so members can read them in context. Members are asked to consider if they are happy with the references made to the Assembly in the document.

a) Funding Code of Practice

P 7 item F18: *The VCS will....'Make contact details known to the VCS Assembly to ensure VCS organisations receive timely information about funding opportunities'*

Commentary: All organisations which are members of the Assembly already receive regular information about funding opportunities through the newsletter.

b) Consultation Code of Practice

P9 item C9: The VCS will.....'*Recognise the role of the VCS Assembly as a mechanism to disseminate information and use its infrastructure to encourage consultation and co-operation with each other and intermediary bodies at local, regional and national levels*'

Commentary: This is in line with the stated aims and objectives of the Assembly.

P9 item C10: The VCS will.... '*Consult directly with VCS Assembly members, or if not practicable or appropriate, state consultation is on the basis of knowledge experience and expertise of the interest group concerned*'

Commentary: Training is planned in the autumn for VCS members on the responsibilities of, and techniques for effective representation. It is proposed that written training/briefing materials be produced following this training to enable dissemination of good practice. Consultation with the full VCS membership can be initiated via the regular newsletter and with specific interest groups via the Forums of Interest.

P10 item JC3: Together we will....'*Publicise the results of consultation as widely as possible throughout the VCS Assembly and council structures and mechanisms.*'

Commentary: This can be achieved via the newsletter and forums of interest.

Conclusion: All specific references to the VCS Assembly as set out in the draft consultation document are in line with the aims and objectives of the Assembly and can be delivered through current mechanisms and processes. **It is recommended that** the Board accept these references without amendment.

2. Structure for the Implementation of the Compact

As part of the structure for the implementation of the Compact two groups are proposed: Compact Implementation Group and the Compact Dispute and Resolution Group. Each of these groups require significant representation from the Voluntary and Community Sector and the VCS Assembly will be tasked with recruiting and appointing representatives.

The Compact Implementation Group will oversee compliance of the Compact and Terms of Reference. It is proposed that the group will have 5 Council representatives and 5 appointed by the VCS assembly. The group will oversee the implementation of the Compact and the

monitoring and review processes including developing and delivering an annual action plan. It is expected that the Compact Development group would meet quarterly. A draft terms of reference is being developed by the Compact Development group which next meets on 10th September. **Members are asked** to consider if there are any specific issues which they would like to see covered in the T.O.R, in particular any thoughts on the process for recruitment/ appointment of members.

The Compact Dispute and resolution group will report to the Compact Implementation group and it is proposed that it will have 4 Council representatives and 4 VCS representatives. Members would be required to sit on panels to adjudicate on disputes between. Each panel would require 2 representatives. Training will be provided for panel members. This group would only meet as required, it is unclear at this stage how much of a time commitment this may be as it is entirely dependant on the number of disputes. A draft terms of reference is being developed by the Compact Development. **Members are asked** to consider if there are any specific issues which they would like to see covered in the T.O.R, in particular any thoughts on the process for recruiting representatives. The Board may wish to leave the option open for the VCS to recruit and train a wider pool of VCS representatives, if the numbers of disputes becomes onerous

It should be noted that the role of the VCS Assembly in recruiting and appointing VCS representatives for the above groups is not specifically referred to in the draft consultation document but has been proposed by the Compact Development group. **Members are asked** to consider if they would like to see this specified in the final Compact Document as well as in the accompanying terms of reference.

3. Other Considerations:

The consultation closes on 18th September and **members are asked** to ensure that each Forum of Interest has sent in a response by the closing date.

Members of the Assembly Funding Task and Finish group are asked to ensure that their recommendation have been fully included within the draft Compact Document.

The annual Compact conference is due to be held on the 6th November 2009, **members are asked** to note this date and pass any suggestions for the content of the conference on to members of the current Compact Development Group.