

**REPORT FOR: Health and Wellbeing Board**

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**Date of Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013

**Subject:** **INFORMATION REPORT – Harrow Compact**

**Responsible Officer:** Tom Whiting, Corporate Director, Resources

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** Compact and Codes

**Section 1 – Summary**

This report draws to the Board's attention the Compact – an agreement between the bodies represented on Harrow Partnership Board setting out principles to guide the conduct of relationships with voluntary and community sector organisations.

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

The original Compact was an agreement between the government and the voluntary and community sector, which set out key principles and established a way of working that improved their relationship for mutual advantage. It was made in November 1998, and renewed in 2010.

It considered areas such as involvement in policy design and consultation, funding arrangements (including grants and contracts), promoting equality, ensuring better involvement in delivering services, and strengthening independence.

Following the national Compact, most areas in England developed a local Compact, which interprets the principles set out in the Compact to reflect local need and determination

In Harrow, the Compact was developed in 2004. It consisted of an overarching document supported by 5 Codes concerned with Disability, Black and Minority Ethnic issues, Consultation, Volunteering and Funding. Our Compact is not a legally binding document or contract although a Compact in another Borough has been accorded the status of a “Document of Intent” in a High Court ruling which enables Judicial Review proceedings to be brought if it is breached. It is a mutual agreement between those who decide to endorse its principles and commitments to action. Its authority derives mainly from the respect accorded to it by the partners and the extent to which it influences future decision-making and development. It is intended to be of both practical and symbolic significance. It is the intention of those who have collaborated in producing it that it should have an authoritative focus in promoting good quality working relationships between the partners.

The local procedure for responding to issues raised under the Compact is for the Service Manager, Policy and Partnership to undertake an investigation. The investigation will, where possible, suggest both whether the issues raised have been substantiated and a recommended way forward. The draft investigation report will be sent to the complainant and the Council officers concerned for comments and, where appropriate, those comments will be incorporated into the final investigation report. Where a way forward is recommended, the comments of both parties on the practicality and acceptability of the recommendation are particularly welcome.

Work to revise the Codes began in 2010 and four of the five codes were quickly agreed. The fifth, relating to Funding, has proved to be more difficult not least to changes in the way the Council and other bodies contract with and fund voluntary and community organisations. A final draft of the new Commissioning and Funding Code is now ready to be presented to the Partnership Board for consideration at their September meeting.

The four agreed revised Codes and the draft Commissioning and Funding Code are attached to this report for information

### **Section 3 – Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report

### **Section 4 - Equalities implications**

An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed fro the refresh of the four current codes and a further assessment will be undertaken on the Commissioning and Funding code prior to its submission to the Partnership Board.

### **Section 5 – Corporate Priorities**

The Compact directly relates to the Council’s Corporate Priority “United and involved communities” by demonstrating respect for and partnership with voluntary and community organisations.

Name: Steve Tingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 24 July 2013		

### **Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Mike Howes, Service Manager, Policy and Partnerships,  
Ext 020 8420 9637

**Background Papers:** None