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VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS are

PIVOTAL

TO SUFFOLK

NOVEMBER 2006

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ISSUE 17 Welcome...

To the special 'Compact in Suffolk' edition of PIVOTAL. The National Compact week is from the 1st to the 8th November and this year, in Suffolk, we are using it to relaunch the Compact in Suffolk. Many of you signed up to the original Compact back in 2001 and after extensive consultation, the Compact Steering Group have refreshed the National Compact, to give it a Suffolk flavour and drafted 5 Codes of Good Practice. The following pages will give an insight into the Compact in Suffolk, encourage sign up and give ideas on implementing the Compact in your organisation.



This edition also covers the Local Area Agreement, giving details on how the voluntary and community sector is represented and how you can get your issues and views aired.

Laura Hack, Editor

The Compact in Suffolk – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Compact in Suffolk?

In a nutshell, the Compact is a tool for improving relationships between public sector agencies and the voluntary and community sector in Suffolk for mutual advantage.

Its purpose is to provide a framework for good and productive relationships between the VCS and public sector agencies and promote a better understanding of how each sector works.

It is underpinned by 5 Codes of Good Practice that aid in the implementation of the Compact, giving guidelines for both sectors to work to. In essence, it is a common sense toolkit.

What relevance does it have to me?

If you are working in a multi-agency way, for either a public sector agency, or within the voluntary and community sector, then the Compact in Suffolk is very relevant. It sets out the framework for partnership working, giving guidelines around:

- Consultation
- Funding and Procurement
- Volunteering
- BME and Diversity
- Community Groups

Even if you are part of a very small voluntary organisation, the Volunteers Charter within the Volunteering Code is something that all organisations who work with volunteers should sign up to!

What examples are there of the Compact's use?

The Compact in Suffolk has been used in many different ways over the last few years:

- It formed part of the Best Practice Review that Suffolk County Council undertook in 2003 and helped shape the Single Gateway grants programme.
- It was used to counter the cuts made by the Primary Care Trusts in 2005 and is cited against the non-payment of inflation by Suffolk County Council this year.
- It helped shape the County Council's consultation toolkit 'Nothing About You, Without You'.
- It is being used to shape the Local Strategic Partnerships' way of working within Suffolk.
- It is being used to promote better working with the voluntary and sector to engage them in the Local Area Agreement.
- It has underpinned the development of a Commissioning Toolkit for use by Suffolk County Council.

The Compact in Suffolk – Next Steps

So what happens now?

National Compact Week is taking place between the 1st and the 8th November 2006. The Compact in Suffolk Steering Group are using this week to relaunch the Compact and four of the five Codes of Good Practice, and asking all our partners to re-sign the document.

In light of the current financial climate the public sector finds itself in, the Compact in Suffolk is more important than ever. The Compact in Suffolk provides a framework for public sector agencies and the voluntary and community sector to adopt a common sense approach to working together. However, without buy in from both sectors this cannot happen and it is up to **all** to read the Compact documents and ensure that it is implemented within each organisation. This should not be merely a tokenistic gesture, but a genuine commitment to working in a Compact way.

Find out more:

Download the documents from www.savo.co.uk – under the section: A Compact Way of Working.

Contact the Compact Officer:
Laura Hack: laura.hack@savo.co.uk
☎ 01473 275197

Visit the National Compact site:
www.thecompact.org.uk

Timescales:

1st – 8th November

Relaunch of the Compact in Suffolk and 4 of the 5 Codes of Good Practice



November to December:

- Work around developing the 5th Code of Good Practice Funding and Procurement
- Letters and presentations to key public sector agencies and a campaign to raise awareness to the voluntary and community sector

November to February 2007

- Organisations asked to take the Compact in Suffolk through their formal processes for ratification and permission to sign up

By May 2007

- Deadline for re-signing to the Compact in Suffolk

Ongoing

- Awareness raising and promotion of the Compact in Suffolk

Events:

1st November:

Compact in Suffolk Steering Group Meeting to develop Action Plan for implementing the Compact

Relaunch of The Compact in Suffolk

3rd November:

Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Annual Partnership Forum at Snape Maltings

7th November

Suffolk Strategic Partnership Event to review Suffolk's vision for the future and begin work on the revised SSP Community Strategy

1st – 8th November

- Display in the foyer of Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, Ipswich
- Letters sent to all Chief Executives of public sector agencies and Local Strategic Partnership Co-ordinators
- Information disseminated to the voluntary and community sector via the infrastructure networks

Contact the Compact Officer:

Laura Hack: laura.hack@savo.co.uk

☎ 01473 275197

Steps YOU can take to implement the Compact in Suffolk:

- Read the Compact in Suffolk and the Codes of Good Practice.
- Display the Compact in Suffolk documents so staff, volunteers and visitors can read them too.
- Become a Compact Champion for your organisation.
- Ensure that the Board, Trustees, Senior Managers or Members are aware of the Compact in Suffolk and what it stands for.
- Put the Compact in Suffolk on the agenda of your Team Meetings.
- Prompt your organisation to sign or re-sign the Compact in Suffolk.
- Adopt a Compact way of working, using the Codes as guidelines for good practice.
- Use the Compact in Suffolk when working with partners.
- Use the logo on key documents and policies when you have used the Compact in Suffolk to develop them.
- Display the Volunteers Charter in a prominent place.
- Ask for the Compact Officer to come and speak at a relevant event about the Compact in Suffolk.
- Join the Compact in Suffolk Steering Group.

Suffolk's Local Area Agreement – Voluntary and Community Sector Representation

Background to Suffolk's LAA

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) represent a fundamental change in the relationship between central government and local areas, to devolve greater decision-making and flexibility to the local level so that joint action on local priorities and problem areas will deliver real improvement in quality of life.

The LAA is a three-year agreement between central government and local authorities and their local partners. For Suffolk, as one of 21 pilot areas, this agreement runs from April 2005 to March 2008. The agreement sets out with the County Council, district/borough councils, health, police, other public sector agencies and voluntary sector the priority outcomes and targets to be met. It also gives the freedom and flexibilities to join up budgets and services in innovative ways that address specific local needs to add real and lasting benefits. One of the principal gains of the LAA is the ability to pool budgets and government funding streams in order to direct funding towards local issues outlined within the agreement.

More on the background of the LAA is available from:

<http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/laa>

Voluntary and Community Sector Involvement:

As part of the LAA process, SAVO was asked as the secretariat of Suffolk's ChangeUp Programme, One Voice Suffolk, to arrange for representatives from the voluntary and community sector to sit on each of the four Block Boards that drive the LAA. Two places were available on each Board.

The representatives have been given the task to represent the views of the wider VCS (no mean feat). Through them, the voice of the voluntary and community sector can be heard and issues that affect both the VCS and their clients can be raised and information fed back.

These representatives offer a direct route into policy development and funding decisions made by the Local Area Agreement. **This is a vital link for voluntary and community groups!**

Information will be collated and disseminated using PIVOTAL and SAVO as the contact links. To ensure we cover as much of Suffolk's VCS as possible, we need you to:

- Disseminate PIVOTAL to your staff, managers, volunteers, trustees, board members.
- Raise issues and concerns using SAVO as the conduit.

Contact Laura Hack, Partnership Manager
laura.hack@savo.co.uk

Suffolk's Local Area Agreement – Voluntary and Community Sector Representation

The following people have been nominated as the VCS representatives for the 4 Block Boards. Their remit is to represent the views of the wider VCS, not their own organisation and champion the VCS within the LAA process, feeding issues and information to the Blocks and back to the sector.

They will be supported in this role by One Voice Suffolk, and in particular SAVO as the secretariat for the OVS consortium.

Their positions will stand until August 2007, when the process will be reviewed.

Please contact SAVO in the first instance to put forward views and issues that you want to take to the Boards:

Laura Hack, Partnership Manager, SAVO, 43a Woodbridge Road East, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 5QN. Tel: 01473 275197 laura.hack@savo.co.uk

Block 1 Children & Young People

Dr Bud Simpkin –

Chief Executive
Young Suffolk, Room 9, Castle Hill Community Centre, Highfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 6DG
Tel: 01473 744187
ceo@suffolkonline.net

Lorraine Cartwright –

Development Manager
Ormiston Children and Families Trust
Robert Milne Family Centre, 333 Felixstowe Road
Ipswich Suffolk IP3 9BU
Tel: 01473 724549
lorraine.cartwright@ormiston.org

Block 2 Safer and Stronger Communities

Jane Basham –

Director
Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality
46a St Matthews Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3EP
Tel: 01473 408111
director@iscre.org.uk

Ronagh Witthames -

Director of Development
Suffolk ACRE, Suffolk House
2 Wharfedale Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 4JP
Tel: 01473 242500
ronagh.witthames@suffolkacre.org.uk

Block 3 Adults & Healthier Communities

John O'Sullivan –

Chief Executive
St John's Housing Trust, 26 Suffolk Road, Lowestoft
NR32 1DZ, Tel: 01502 580315
o'sullivan.john@stjohnshousing.org

Liz Battle -

Chief Executive
Anglia Care Trust, 65 St Matthews Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 4NQ Tel: 01473 213140
chief@angliacaretrust.org.uk

Block 4 Prosperity for All – Economic Development & Enterprise

Richard Catherall -

Chief Executive
Ipswich and District Council for Voluntary Services
1 Cornhill, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 1DD
Tel: 01473 261110, Mobile: 07906 562225
ceo@ipswich-cvs.org.uk

Dr Wil Gibson -

Chief Executive
Suffolk ACRE, Suffolk House, 2 Wharfedale Road
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 4JP, Tel: 01473 242500
wil.gibson@suffolkacre.org.uk

Consultation with Suffolk County Council

Suffolk County Council's 2007/08 budget plans

Graham Gatehouse, Director for Adult & Community Services recently sent out a letter to VCS Providers. In it he notes that the county council is expecting another tough year. "Most of the authority's funding comes from a central government grant. The final 'settlement' will not be known before late November at the earliest. The Council's Cabinet will make its final budget decisions on 6 February. However, we have to start planning and preparing now."

The Council's proposals are posted on their website, www.suffolk.gov.uk and they are now starting the process three months earlier this year to allow more time for debate. He notes that they are taking a longer term view of the Council's finances to even out some of the decisions they need to make.

If you have any questions or concerns about how these proposals might affect you or how your organisation works with Suffolk County Council please do not hesitate to contact Graham directly. A briefing event has been arranged for the 8th November 2006, 2pm - 3.30pm at Kesgrave Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, IP5 1JF, which VCS providers are encouraged to attend. Contact Nikki Sturmey at Nikki.Sturmey@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk if you wish to attend.

New EU rules for Procurement Seminar

This seminar is an opportunity to find out about new European rules on tendering for goods and services. It will bring you up to date on:

- The information you need to provide
- The timescales for tendering and bidding
- How the new rules can help you bid for contracts

Date: 14th November 2006

Time: 9.30 – 12.00

Venue: St Edmunds House (North/South rooms), Ipswich

If you would like to book a place please contact [Katherine Halcrow](mailto:Katherine.Halcrow@suffolkcc.gov.uk), on 01473 264418. Spaces for this seminar will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Modernisation of Suffolk's Learning Disability Services

SAVO have been approached to find 12 representatives from the Voluntary Sector with an interest in shaping Suffolk's Learning Disability Services, for 12 panels around the County

Timing is tight, with the first panel being on the 30th October in Bury St Edmunds. It is a chance to have a say in the development of services for learning disabilities.

If you or your organisation would like to be a representative of these, of which there will only be 4 meetings per location, please email your contact details to louise.bradshaw@savo.co.uk who will pass them onto Suffolk County Council.

News in Brief

The Big Lottery Family Learning Programme

The Big Lottery Family Learning Programme has now been launched. Family learning helps parents gain a better understanding of how their children learn and encourages adults and children to learn together as a family. Full details are available at <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>.

All change for the Primary Care Trusts

The new Suffolk Primary Care Trust, which replaced the Suffolk West and Suffolk East PCTs, has a new website, at www.suffolkpct.nhs.uk Please update your records and links. Until they move into new headquarters accommodation in the New Year, the PCT's main postal address is St Clement's Hospital, Foxhall Road, Ipswich IP3 8LS. Please also note that all staff email addresses have changed to: firstname.lastname@suffolkpct.nhs.uk

The Waveney and Yarmouth PCT's website address is: <http://www.gywpct.nhs.uk/>

New VCS Development Co-ordinator for Voluntary Groups in Suffolk Coastal

Karen Lawson has joined SAVO, funded by the Suffolk Coastal LSP, to work with voluntary and community groups in Coastal. If you are a VCS group working or operating in this area, Karen can help you with any capacity building issues. Contact her: karen.lawson@savo.co.uk

Looking for funding?

The Community Foundation network is a charitable trust supporting local community causes. Find out about your local foundation and grants available at:

www.communityfoundations.org.uk

Recruiting Trustees

A Get On Board trustee recruitment campaign starts in January, run by the Governance Hub in partnership with the Charity Commission and Volunteering England. They are urging voluntary and community organisations to register their trustee vacancies in readiness, via <http://www.do-it.org.uk/needvolunteers>.

There is also a Trustee Recruitment Toolkit which sets out a 10 step process, with case studies and checklists making the 66 pages much less daunting than it sounds. Order or download (pdf, 290kb) from <http://digbig.com/4ndwh>.

Release of The Local Government White Paper

The Local Government White Paper has now been released. Find out what it means for the Third Sector and community engagement: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503999>

News in Brief

Conference to discuss the effect of funding cuts on disabled people

Disability Charity Optua is holding a conference in November to discuss the impact of funding cuts by Suffolk County Council and health organisations in the county on the lives of disabled people.

The conference has the title: "Independence, well-being and choice – Pigs might fly!", which refers to the Government Green Paper 'Independence, Well-being and Choice' which sets out the Government's vision for adult social care over the next 10 to 15 years.

The conference will allow disabled people, their carers, representatives from voluntary and statutory organisations, and anyone who is concerned about this issue to discuss the impact of funding cuts in Suffolk on the delivery of services for people with physical and sensory disabilities.

Speaking at the conference will be representatives from Suffolk County Council's Adult and Community Services, Suffolk Primary Care Trust and the keynote speaker will be Dr Jenny Morris, a disability consultant.

The conference is on Friday 3rd November 2006, from 9.30am to 4.30pm at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Ipswich with the afternoon session being chaired by broadcaster Rachel Sloane who is a patron of Optua.

Anyone interested can call Optua on 01473 836777 for more information, or go online at www.optua.org.uk where application packs can be downloaded.

Over the past few months Optua has been asking people how changes to funding have affected them and their personal accounts will be fed back to the conference.

Trailer for Hire

The Framlingham & District Development Trust are offering a special discount rate to any community group that would like to hire their new exhibition trailer. It measures 5.2m long, is 3 metres high and is 2.3 m wide. It comes equipped with steps, chairs, table, microwave and electric generator.

The trailer is suitable for fund raising events, fetes, trade fairs, training, roadshows and displays. The discounted daily hire rate for community groups is only £25 for weekdays or £40 for weekends. Delivery to events can be arranged at a cost of £1.00 per mile. For further information or booking please call Mary on 01728 747003

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If you are a charity why not register with the search engine website: www.everyclick.com. Encourage users to sign up to it and choose the charity that they want to support, using everyclick.com as their search engine. Every time they run a search on the search engine 1p will be donated to their chosen charity. It costs nothing for a charity or a user to register.