

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2015 AT 10.00 AM**

HERTFORDSHIRE COMPACT

Report of Director of Health and Community Services

Authors: Ruth Harrington, Head of Community Wellbeing
Tel: 01438 845843

Kate Brierley, Senior Policy Officer, Corporate Policy Team
Tel: 01992 558321

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform the Board of the work to refresh the Hertfordshire COMPACT.
- 1.2 To request the Board to note and comment on the draft Hertfordshire COMPACT and the consultation process.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 The COMPACT is a voluntary agreement between statutory organisations (SOs) and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in a geographical location. The aims of the agreement are: to foster strong, effective partnerships between public bodies and voluntary organisations beneficial to both sectors, to establish a framework for good partnership working, to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities and citizens in the area.
- 2.2 The Hertfordshire COMPACT was last updated in 2005, and work to refresh the Hertfordshire COMPACT in 2015 has been undertaken by a working group that includes representatives from both sectors.

- 2.3 The Steering Group have agreed a draft COMPACT for wider consultation (Appendix A).
- 2.4 The consultation process for the draft COMPACT commenced 15 October 2015 and will be open for at least twelve weeks, in line with consultation best practice, until Friday 15 January 2016.
- 2.5 Following the consultation period, responses will be considered and a final document will be developed in the new-year. It is proposed to publish the final version of the COMPACT early 2016 and encourage organisations to adopt the shared principles and undertakings of the Hertfordshire COMPACT.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Board is asked to note and comment on the attached draft Hertfordshire COMPACT (Appendix A).
- 3.2 The Board is asked to note and comment on the consultation process for the draft Hertfordshire COMPACT.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The Hertfordshire Compact is a written understanding between the voluntary and community sector and statutory sectors about how they will co-operate and continue to develop positive working relationships for the benefit of Hertfordshire's communities. The Compact process is one of learning, development and dialogue.
- 4.2 A number of Hertfordshire's District and Borough Councils have their own local COMPACTs. Some of these have been recently refreshed; others are still used for reference, while others had fallen into disuse. It is recognised that any Hertfordshire COMPACT would sit alongside local agreements as it would co-exist with the National COMPACT.
- 4.3 The Hertfordshire COMPACT was last updated in 2005, and the requirement to refresh the document was recognised by both SOs and the VCS. The SO and VCS considered a new COMPACT would provide a firm foundation for more sophisticated partnership arrangements.

- 4.4 The work to refresh the Hertfordshire COMPACT, since March 2015, has been undertaken by a working group that includes representatives from HCC, District and Borough Councils, both Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office (PCC) and an equal number of representatives from the VCS. The VCS representatives were selected by a new network of Hertfordshire voluntary sector Chief Executive Officers.
- 4.5 The Steering Group have agreed a draft COMPACT for wider consultation (Appendix A).
- 4.6 The consultation process for the draft COMPACT commenced 15 October 2015 and will be open for at least twelve weeks, in line with consultation best practice, until Friday 15 January 2016.
- 4.7 A consultation sub-group was convened, including representatives from the stakeholders on the COMPACT steering group to develop the plan that was approved by the steering group. Specific actions in order to consult include:
- A HertsDirect consultation page
 - A VCS consultation page
 - Consultation with all Districts, in the first instance through their Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)
 - Presentation to Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Presentation to Hertfordshire Assembly
 - Promotion through VCS and CCG communication channels
 - Promotion through social media e.g. twitter and Yammer
 - The Hertfordshire Volunteering Conference on 20th October also presented an opportunity to consult
- 4.8 Following the consultation period, responses will be considered and a final document will be developed in the new-year. It is proposed to publish the final version of the COMPACT early 2016 and encourage organisations to adopt the shared principles and undertakings of the Hertfordshire COMPACT.
- 4.9 The steering group plan to continue working together to implement and embed the Hertfordshire COMPACT, to evaluate the effectiveness of the document and to work together to manage any disputes or disagreements that may arise. The intention is to review, and refresh if applicable, the Hertfordshire COMPACT annually.

Report signed off by	Director of Health & Community Services
Sponsoring HWB Member/s	Director of Health & Community Services, Hertfordshire County Council - Iain MacBeath
Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report	The Compact will strengthen and grow the relationship between statutory organisations and the voluntary and community sector and consequently enable stronger partnership working in all the nine priorities of the H&Wb strategy.
Needs assessment The Voluntary Sector Commissioning Strategy 2015-2019 identifies the need to refresh the Hertfordshire Compact as it was last updated in 2005.	
Consultation/public involvement As outlined in the report	
Equality and diversity implications A draft Equalities Impact Assessment of the Compact has been prepared and implications are considered to be positive. The Compact makes specific commitments to reduce barriers to involvement in the design of programmes, policies and services, to consider and mitigate impacts on service users when funding come to an end, to understand the needs and views of people specifically protected by legislation and other under-represented and disadvantaged groups, and to take practical action to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality and to ensure a voice for under-represented and disadvantaged groups. An 'easy read' version of the Compact is planned so it is accessible for people with learning disabilities.	
Acronyms or terms used. eg:	
Initials	In full
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease