



GCVS Briefing Note: Glasgow Community Planning Backs Compact Development July 2007

Introduction

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In a positive move to strengthen the relationship between the voluntary and public sectors, Glasgow Community Planning Partnership (GCPP) has approved the development of a compact for the city.

What is a Compact?

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Compacts are agreements that provide a frame of reference for relationships between partners and a set of agreed "rules of engagement". They can be a valuable mechanism for fostering:

- trust and respect between organisations;
- increased understanding of roles structures; and
- transparent decision-making among partners.

Compacts are not new. There has been a national Compact between the voluntary sector and the Scottish Executive since 1998 and the majority of local authority areas in England have compacts. Compacts elsewhere have identified issues such as partner consultation; communication; commissioning and resources as themes for focus in their agreements. However, it is when compacts are backed by an Implementation Plan, that they can have a real impact in ensuring joint priorities and plans are achieved against clearly defined timescales. For example, the first year of compact operation in Edinburgh saw progress towards mapping the city's voluntary sector and the development of a social enterprise strategy.

What's next?

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The decision by GCPP will see resources channelled into a nine month compact development phase from July 2007 to March 2008. The key focus of this initiative will be the negotiation of a Compact Agreement and Implementation Plan, signed up to, supported and endorsed by all community planning partners. This is an ambitious timescale given experience in other areas across Scotland, where compacts have taken anything from two to six years to develop. However, some of the groundwork has already been progressed as a result of a senior secondment to GCPP for the first six months of this year. During this time, early soundings were taken from a number of stakeholders in Glasgow's public and voluntary sectors and feedback suggested positive support for such an arrangement.

The months ahead will see a wide variety of consultation processes, meetings, and events undertaken to ensure Glasgow's voluntary and public sector partners have their say in shaping the content of the city's Compact. Your input will be welcomed, so please ensure you take advantage of these opportunities to make your views known.

Contact

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