

Camden Local Strategic Partnership

Meeting	23 April 2009
Report Title	Compact for Camden Action Plan
Report by	Simone Hensby, Chair of the Compact Group, Chair of Community Empowerment Network, Executive Director Voluntary Action Camden tel. 020 7284 6555, email: shensby@vac.org.uk
Purpose	The LSP reaffirmed its commitment to the Compact for Camden in 2007. The LSP has requested that the Compact Group look at updating the Action Plan and bring the revised document to the LSP for approval. This report sets out the background to the Compact and the format and content for the revised Action Plan.
Recommendations	The LSP is asked to agree: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the format and contents of the revised Action Plan2. that the Compact Group oversee the implementation and monitoring of the plan on the behalf of the LSP3. to receive a report on progress in a year's time

1 Background

- 1.1 The Compact for Camden is a framework agreement between the voluntary and community sector and the public sector partners in the borough. It is a framework to guide the conduct of partnership working and it promotes a culture of empowerment and continually improving relations between the sectors. It builds on central government's compact with the voluntary and community sector, *Getting It Right Together*, which is overseen by the Commission for the Compact.
- 1.2 A report updating the LSP on the Compact for Camden was considered at the meeting on the 29 November 2007 at which the LSP requested the Compact Group to update the Action Plan and bring the revised document to the LSP for approval. The revised Action Plan is set out in the appendix to this report.

2 Action Plan

- 2.1 The Action Plan encompasses new priorities relevant to relationships with the voluntary and community sector, including:

- The need to manage the shift from grant aid to commissioning arrangements, as recommended in the May 2008 Comprehensive Performance Assessment feedback
- The adoption of volunteering and social cohesion targets within Camden's Local Area Agreement
- Government's focus on creating an environment for a thriving third sector, which sits outside of Camden's basket of Local Area Agreement targets.

2.2 The Action Plan's life is to March 2011 and it is divided into five sections:

- Stronger partnerships and collaboration between sectors
- Consultation and influencing local decision making
- Infrastructure
- Funding relationships and service delivery
- Volunteering

Each section is divided into key actions and identified success criteria, evidence and performance indicators. A lead body is identified for each activity all of which are cross referenced to key strategic documents that come under the auspices of the LSP and the related national indicators of the Local Area Agreement.

The Commission for the Compact is interested in using Camden's work on outcomes to inform the refresh of the National Funding Code.

3 Compact Group

3.1 Subject to the LSP's agreement it is proposed that the Compact Group is charged with overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the plan and to bring a report on progress to the LSP in one year's time.

3.2 The Compact Group is chaired by Simone Hensby (CEN and VAC). The following organisations are represented on the group:

- Voluntary Action Camden
- Volunteer Centre Camden
- Black & Minority Ethnic Alliance
- Disability in Camden (DISC)
- Camden Community Empowerment Network
- Coram's Fields
- Camden Training Network
- NHS Camden
- Camden Council
- NHS Camden
- Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust
- Metropolitan Police
- London Fire Brigade
- Camden & Islington Foundation Trust

- Great Ormond Street NHS Foundation Trust
- University College London NHS Foundation Trust
- Learning & Skills Council
- Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 In agreeing to take forward the Action Plan, LSP members will be demonstrating their commitment to the Compact for Camden and the embedding of its principles into their operations. This builds on the agreement of members in November 2007 to continue to champion the Compact in their own organisations and to identify operational leads and contact points.

Appendix: Compact for Camden Action Plan

The Compact for Camden is a framework agreement between the voluntary and community sector and the public sector partners in the borough. It is a framework to guide the conduct of partnership working and it promotes a culture of empowerment and continually improving relations between the sectors. It builds on central government's compact with the voluntary and community sector, *Getting It Right Together*, which is overseen by the Commission for the Compact.

The Compact for Camden was formally adopted by the Camden Local Strategic Partnership in March 2004, this included agreement to an action plan and annual reports on progress to the LSP. The LSP re-affirmed its commitment to the Compact in November 2007. Following this, the Compact Action Plan has been refreshed to reflect new priorities.

The Compact Action Plan sets out actions that partners from the voluntary & community and statutory sectors will deliver up to March 2011. Broadly, the Action Plan sets out actions relating to:

- Strengthening partnership working
- Enabling greater joint decision making
- Improving funding and commissioning arrangements, and
- Increasing volunteering opportunities

The Action Plan provides the context from which partners can build a meaningful understanding of their respective contributions to improved quality of life in Camden.

The Action Plan refresh encompasses new priorities relevant to relationships with the voluntary and community sector, including:

- The need to manage the shift from grant aid to commissioning arrangements, as recommended in the May 2008 Comprehensive Assessment feedback
- The adoption of volunteering and social cohesion targets within Camden's Local Area Agreement
- Government's focus on creating an environment for a thriving third sector, which sits outside of Camden's basket of Local Area Agreement targets

Monitoring progress of the Action plan will enable partners to understand the contributions and limitations pertaining to each partner and the added value derived through collaboration.

The life of the Action Plan is to March 2011 when a further refresh will be undertaken and, importantly, help to shape arrangements for the next review of voluntary and community sector funding.

Key action	Deadline for completion and/or key milestones	Success criteria/ Evidence/ Performance indicators	Relevant National Indicator and/or Strategy	Lead
Stronger partnerships and collaboration between sectors				
Enable the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to have a stronger voice in partnerships, strategies and plans through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • networks • organisational development activities • engagement in strategic decision making • monitoring involvement and effectiveness in local partnerships 	Mar 2011	Levels / quality of VCS engagement Variety of stakeholders involved Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCOs) better able to represent themselves Support given to groups currently without 'voice'	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Various partnership strategies Local H: Social Cohesion	Compact Steering Group / VAC / LBC
Recognition of the social and economic value of the VCS and volunteering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • researching VCS and volunteering activity • promoting value with events and training tools 	Mar 2010	Promotion / use of VCS data. VCS groups better able to demonstrate the business case of their ways of working Event participation / actions	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group / LBC / VAC
Enable involvement of VCS in reporting on local issues and outcomes to council and LSP partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCS seminars on Community Strategy themes • VCS contribution to LSP 	Mar 2010	Seminar attendance and groups contributing to reporting. VCS contribution included in all LSP reports on Community Strategy	Community Strategy Connected Camden Children & Young Peoples Plan Local H: Social Cohesion	Compact Steering Group / CPS LBC / VAC

reports			NIs 1, 6 & 7	
Consultation and influencing local decision making				
<p>Ensure appropriate and timely processes for VCS involvement in developing and monitoring policies and strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategy / LAA • Local Development Framework • Thematic partnership plans 	Mar 2011	Type / frequency of involvement/impact of involvement	<p>Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7 All plans VCS involved in Joint Commissioning strategies LBC & NHS Camden</p>	<p>Compact Steering Group / LBC / VAC/LBC & NHS Camden</p>
<p>Support opportunity for VCS and the communities they work with to understand and influence decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountable / transparent selection of VCS members of strategic boards • Policy briefing, outreach work • Promoting understanding of key themes and documents on strategic agendas 	Mar 2011	<p>Selection process documentation</p> <p>Terms of Reference that reflect VCS engagement in strategic and other planning processes</p> <p>Levels of VCS engagement / opportunities taken</p> <p>Clear methods of sharing information across the sector</p> <p>Effective function for infrastructure bodies</p>	<p>Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7</p>	<p>Compact Steering Group / LBC / VAC</p>

		Positive feedback from Infrastructure members / CAA Place survey results		
Develop VCS capacity to provide evidence to support its views <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and data collection • Knowledge development – policy, local context etc 	Mar 2010	Feedback on the impact of the evidence provided	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group / LBC / VAC/LBC & NHS Camden
Infrastructure				
Develop strategies to ensure wide range of participation from the voluntary and community sector in the formulation of policy, the design and delivery of services	Mar 2010	Review the Camden Compact and refresh the Action Plan Evidence of participation in decision making structures and processes Evidence of participation in engagement processes including significant consultations/feedback and evaluations of processes Wide range of representatives from the community including those currently without a 'voice' / Effectiveness of:	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7 Health indicators Strategic Commissioning Plans for LBC & NHS Camden	Compact Steering Group

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CEN - LINK - Thematic P'ships 		
Develop demonstration projects to ensure that relevant reports presented to the LSP and other decision making bodies reference and illustrate partnership working with the voluntary and community sector	Mar 2010	Compact champions identified all organisations that are signatories to the Compact	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group
	Mar 2010	Operational leads identified for all organisations that are signatories to the Compact		
	Mar 2010	All signatories nominate one representative on to the Compact Group		
	Annual survey	Selection of reports presented to decision making bodies		
Partners policies to raise awareness of the role and contribution of the voluntary and community sector to the quality of life and community cohesion	March 2010	<p>Training programme in place and resourced for staff and volunteers involved in activities delivered by all signatories to the Compact.</p> <p>Reference in key strategic documents to a Camden Compact way of working</p>	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group
Responsiveness toward elected and appointed members and other drivers with regards to support for local VCS organisations	Mar 2011	Support available to local organisations and groups	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social	Compact Steering Group / LBC / VAC

			Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	
Funding relationships and service delivery				
Develop and support VCS sustainability through a variety of income sources (e.g. grants through to contracted services)	March 2011	Strategies, policies and practice to support commitment Diverse funding sources	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group
Develop effective ways to monitor the performance of funded organisations.	March 2010	Improved approaches across all Compact signatories Pilot new information and evidencing systems Development of quality frameworks and systems for users feed back	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group
Commitment to move towards funding and commissioning all initiatives in accordance with the requirements of full cost recovery	April 2010	Training of VCS to bid according to competitive criteria / i.e. full service costs	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group
Funding and commissioning on the basis of three year funding agreements	April 2010	Evidence of three year funding agreements being in place	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group

Support local VCS and partners to have a better understanding of procurement, commissioning and outcomes	Mar 2011	VCS groups more sustainable More consortia established to bid for contracts More contract funding secured Local Events to promote understanding of procurement and commissioning Training opportunities open to VCS	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group
Develop and pilot methods for commissioning and monitoring grant and contract outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Piloting outcomes based commissioning o Piloting of outcome monitoring systems e.g. star tool and substance. 	Mar 2010	Agreed methodologies for commissioning and measurement of outcomes available for providers and commissioners Commissioning strategies support commitment and learning	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7 Commissioning Strategies	Compact Steering Group / LBC / VAC
Increase stakeholders awareness of outcome based grant allocation and commissioning.	Mar 2010	Workshops provided Increased take up and use of outcomes approach	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group / LBC / VAC /LBC & NHS Camden
Enabling collaborative and consortium bids	Mar 2010	Events and training and support for consortium development	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan	Compact Steering Group / VAC / LBC

	Mar 2011	Greater no.s of consortium bids by local VCS	Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	
Explore and develop volunteer involvement in services.	Mar 2010	Share good practice and innovation Evidence of opportunities/participation in volunteer programmes people from Camden's diverse communities	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group
Develop stakeholders knowledge of the VCS market	Mar 2010	The sector better equipped to bid and deliver services Better understanding across the sectors of the role and contribution of VCOs as suppliers	Community Strategy Children & Young Peoples Plan Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6 & 7	Compact Steering Group / VAC / LBC
Volunteering				
Develop and promote volunteering opportunities		Number of people volunteering and level of volunteering above the London average Identification of and agreed minimum standards and numbers of those meeting minimum standards Increased social capital evident	Community Strategy Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6	Compact Steering Group

		<p>in monitoring</p> <p>Evidence of volunteering opportunities for local people from diverse communities and experiences e.g. disabled people as volunteers/people with experience of mental health problems enjoying vol opportunities</p>		
<p>Develop a cross sector Volunteering Strategy</p> <p>Implement the Volunteering Strategy Action Plan</p>	<p>June 2009</p> <p>Mar 2011</p>	<p>Strategy produced</p> <p>Better co-ordinated volunteering opportunities between council and all stakeholders</p>	<p>Community Strategy Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6</p>	<p>LBC / VCC / VAC</p>
<p>Develop co-production and time-banking/volunteering approaches to service delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pilot with Mental Health Day Care services 	<p>Mar 2010</p>	<p>Volunteers and service users acting as co-producers of services and improved outcomes for service users</p>	<p>Community Strategy Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6</p>	<p>HCCT LBC</p>
<p>Develop and promote methods to measure the value of volunteering.</p>	<p>Mar 2011</p>	<p>Relevant methods for the measurement of value of volunteering disseminated to stakeholders</p> <p>Increase use of VIVA and other tools to demonstrate value</p>	<p>Community Strategy Connected Camden Local H: Social Cohesion NIs 1, 6</p>	<p>VAC / LBC / VCC</p>