

## TORBAY COUNCIL

Report No: **CG/21/04**

Title: **Local Compact**

To: Executive on 13 July 2004

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### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To approve a framework for future working relationships between agencies and develop codes of good practice for working together covering consultation, partnership working, funding and reviewing and monitoring

### **2. Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 2.1 All

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 That the Local Compact Framework document be approved.
- 3.2 That the Torbay Strategic Partnership be informed.
- 3.3 That a programme of work be developed with partner agencies for the development of protocols.

### **4. Reason for Recommendation**

- 4.1 To approve future working relationships between partners

### **5. Background**

- 5.1 In 1998 the government adopted a national compact, *Getting it Right Together*, this provided a framework to improve relationships between the government and the Voluntary/Community Sectors, (VCS), in England. National guidelines for good practice have also been formed to help implement the compact in everyday use. The compact recognises the value of all sectors and the importance of partnership working. The government has made it clear that compacts at a local level are crucial to good governance and all local authorities have been asked to produce a compact by April 2004.
- 5.2 The Torbay Local Strategic Partnership recently asked representatives from the Torbay Primary Care Trust, South Devon Healthcare Trust, Torbay Council, Torbay Voluntary Services, Groundwork, Age Concern and Devon and Cornwall Constabulary to prepare draft Terms of Reference for a Local Compact. A draft was published in March and this has now been amended following consultation. It has already been approved by 19 organisations listed in Appendix 1
- 5.3 The local Compact is an agreement between all local voluntary and community groups, Torbay Council and other public bodies to improve working relationships

- 5.4 The Compact sets out a shared vision and principles, promises on both sides, systems to help make sure the agreement works and is underpinned by Codes of Good Practice.
- 5.5 The compact sets out a framework for future working relationships and sets out a programme to develop codes of good practice for working together covering consultation, partnership working, funding and reviewing and monitoring of the compact as a document, the above codes and its practical application.
- 5.6 This will enable partner organisation to work more effectively together and help to avoid duplication of effort

**6. Alternative Options (if any)**

- 6.1 None

**Paul Lucas**  
**Director of Corporate Governance**

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## IMPLICATIONS, CONSULTATION AND OTHER INFORMATION

### Part 1

These sections may be completed by the Report author but must be agreed by named officers in the Legal, Finance, Human Resources and Property Divisions. If these are not completed and agreed the Report will not be included on the agenda.

Does the proposal have implications for the following issues?

Insert name of  
responsible officer

Legal (including Human Rights)	Torbay's compact is not a legally binding document, but a mutual agreement between those who endorse its principles.	Bill Norman
Financial – Revenue	There is potential through joint working to avoid duplication of effort across agencies	Richard Thorpe
Financial – Capital Plan	None	Richard Thorpe
Human resources (including equal opportunities)	There is potential through joint working to avoid duplication of effort across agencies	Clare Armour
Property	Many voluntary Organisations enjoy financial support from the Council via Grants some of which are specifically to offset market rent of Council owned Property. The emerging Compact will need to have regard to this in order to avoid conflicts of interest	Sam Partridge

### Part 2

Does the proposal have implications for the following issues?

Please give details as appropriate

Sustainability	Yes	none
Crime and Disorder	Yes	Development of protocols will involve the partnership
*OfSTED Post Inspection Action Plan	Yes	No
*Social Services Action Plan	Yes	No
*Change Management Plan	Yes	A target within the plan

*\* not applicable to reports to Licensing, Development Control and Area Development Committees*

### Part 3

Does the proposal have implications for the following Directorates? If so, please inform the relevant Director.

Please give details as appropriate

Chief Executive/Corporate Services	Yes	Development of protocols will involve all directorates
Education Services	Yes	Development of protocols will involve all directorates
Environment Services	Yes	Development of protocols will involve all directorates
Social Services	Yes	Proposals developed with Directors and Executive Members.
Torbay Development AgencyDA	Yes	Development of protocols will involve all directorates Members.

#### Part 4

Is the proposal contrary to or does it propose amendment to the Policy Framework or contrary to (or not wholly in accordance with) the Council's budget?	Yes  Fill in Box 1	No  Fill in Box 2
<p>1. Details of the nature and extent of consultation with stakeholders and relevant select committees.</p> <p>Draft circulated through Local Strategic Partnership for comments. Torbay Voluntary Services consulted its members through a facilitated workshop session</p>		
<p>2. Details and outcome of consultation, as appropriate.</p> <p>Minor changes</p>		

#### Part 5

Is the proposal a Key Decision in relation to an Executive function?	Reference Number X2/2004	No
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#### Part 6

##### **Wards**

All

##### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Local Compact

##### **Background Papers:**

## **Torbay's Compact 2004**

### **Introduction:**

In 1998 the Government adopted a national compact, *Getting it Right Together*, this provided a framework to improve relationships between the government and the Voluntary/ Community Sectors, (VCS), in England. National guidelines for good practice have also been formed to help implement the compact in everyday use. The compact recognises the value of all sectors and the importance of partnership working.

The government has made it clear that compacts at a local level are crucial to good governance and all local authorities have been asked to produce a compact by April 2004.

At the Local Strategic Partnership Conference held on 29/11/03 a multi agency group was established to prepare a draft compact for Torbay building on the Partnership Agreement between Torbay Council and the voluntary sector agreed in October 1999. The Multi agency group consisted of representatives from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, South Devon Health Care Trust, Torbay Council, Torbay Primary Care Trust and Torbay's Voluntary Sector, a representative from the business sector was invited.

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### **Signatories:** (Members of all sectors are invited to be signatories.)

Arthritis Care, Torquay & Paignton  
Brixham Seamen's Boys' Home  
Carers UK Torbay & District Branch  
Coalition of Disabled People  
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary  
Disability Information Service  
Forget-Me-Not Club  
Friends of the Palace Theatre  
Home-Start Torbay  
South Devon Carers Consortium  
South Devon Health Care Trust  
Stable Friends  
St. Marychurch Patient Support Group  
Torbay & South West of England Festival  
Torbay CAB  
Torbay Churches Homeless Trust  
Torbay Primary Care Trust  
Torquay Shopmobility  
Torbay Voluntary Service

**Purpose:**

VCS organisations and public sector bodies in Torbay share a fundamental aim, to serve and represent the interests of local people and communities. The purpose of Torbay's compact is to set out the shared principles and commitments to action that will underpin our relationship as we work to achieve that aim. Such a partnership between sectors can only benefit the people of Torbay.

The compact is intended as a framework to guide the work we do together and to promote a partnership where there is understanding as to how each sector works and where potential disputes can be resolved.

The success of this compact is of mutual responsibility.

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**Status:**

Torbay's compact is not a legally binding document, but a mutual agreement between those who endorse its principles. Its authority derives entirely from the respect accorded to it by the partners and from the extent to which it influences future decision making.

It is intended to be of both practical and symbolic significance.

The relationships between sectors are constantly developing. Therefore the compact must be a living document and develop to match the changing needs of the signatories.

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**Accountability:**

The compact and its work will be accountable to the LSP

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**Shared principles:**

- We, the signatories, recognise that all sectors are diverse but complementary.
- As signatories we have an equal voice in the compact.
- We are committed to providing the best possible services.
- We recognise that working in partnership enhances the ability of signatories to fulfil their own purposes but also imposes a responsibility towards achieving common goals.
- We acknowledge that accountability is common to all signatories although this takes different forms, to different bodies.
- We acknowledge that the need for integrity, objectivity, openness and honesty in dealings with each other and service users is fundamental to us all.
- We are committed to conflict resolution.
- We recognise and support the independence of VCS organisations in Torbay. This includes their right to campaign within the law to advance their aims, to comment on public sector policy, to challenge bodies irrespective of any funding relationship that might exist and to determine and manage their own affairs.
- We recognise that the VCS contributes significantly to Torbay's prosperity in all areas, community safety, culture, economy, the environment, education, health, housing and social care.
- We recognise the need for sustainability in all sectors.
- We acknowledge the importance of promoting equality of opportunity and champion

inclusion, access and participation for all people regardless of race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or religion. We recognise that each sector provides specialist and diverse provision and that this should be encouraged alongside mainstream services.

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#### **Actions:**

1. We shall develop codes of good practice for working together covering consultation, partnership working, funding and reviewing and monitoring of the compact as a document, the above codes and its practical application.
2. We are committed to adhering to these codes.
3. We shall develop an action plan for reviewing the compact, addressing its effectiveness and how its implementation can be improved.

#### **Bibliography:**

*Exeter Social, Health And Inclusion Partnership A Compact Between Voluntary And Statutory Agencies Working In Exeter*, copies available at [www.exeter.gov.uk/](http://www.exeter.gov.uk/)

Hammersmith & Fulham Compact, copies available from

*The Bristol Compact* copies available from [www.voscur.org/](http://www.voscur.org/)

*The Devon Partnership Agreement*, copies available from Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

The government *Good Practice Guides on, Consultation and Policy Appraisal, Volunteering, Community Groups, Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary & Community Organisations and Funding*. Copies available from [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

*The Liverpool Compact*, copies available from Liverpool Council for Voluntary Service, 14 Castle Street, Liverpool, L2 0NJ.

*The Plymouth Compact*, copies available from Plymouth Guild of Voluntary Service, Ernest English House, Buckwell Street, Plymouth, PL1 2DA.

The RAISE *Compact Toolkit*, Bateman J, CVS Medway, Regional Action and Involvement South East, March 2003. Copies available from, [www.raise-networks.org.uk/](http://www.raise-networks.org.uk/)

*Working Together*, Poole's Compact, copies available from, Poole Council for Voluntary Service, Poole Advice Centre, 54 Langland Street, Poole, BR15 1QG.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

The Compact working group would like to acknowledge the assistance gratefully received from:  
Liverpool CVS  
Plymouth Guild of Voluntary Service