

BRISTOL COMPACT STEERING GROUP
26th July 2006

Present: Faith Davey (The Care Forum), Wendy Stephenson (VOSCUR), Gillian Douglas (Equalities and Community Development Manager), Aileen Edwards (Second-step), Shamim Baloo (Bristol Partnership), Paul Madine (Volunteer Bristol), Zahid Dar (BDA), Elizabeth Williams (BRISTOL SOUTH WEST PCT)

Chair: Annie Hudson (BCC SSH)

Minutes: Philip Gingell (BCC Community Regeneration)

Apologies: None

	ACTION
<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>Those present introduced themselves.</p> <p>1. Minutes of 24th April 2006 and Matters arising.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be accurate.</p> <p>1. Complaints Disputes Procedure.</p> <p>Not yet signed off.</p> <p>2. Review/Renew Compact.</p> <p>Work picked up in the "Away Day".</p> <p>3. Reformat Compact.</p> <p>Compact needs "tidying up". Different fonts/styles make difficult to read. Edit probably needed later but for now simply a case of making it easier to follow.</p> <p>4. Select Committee Report.</p> <p>WS asked if representative from voluntary sector is to be on working group?</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>GD (who has replaced DD) will follow this up and circulate final version a.s.a.p.</p> <p></p> <p>SB volunteered to tackle this.</p>

GD confirmed first meeting of group was to be held shortly and, to date, there was no representation from voluntary sector, but composition of group would need to be discussed at this initial meeting.

Unfortunately GD will not be able to attend this meeting.

AH feels there might be some confusion here, as she believes this group will be focusing on the need for different Council Services to have a cohesive strategy re funding. This should, of course, have some input from VCS.

WS will revisit recommendations to check.

2. Code of Practice on BME Groups.

ZD had response from Ian Crawley re draft. Suggested amendments made and 3rd draft now ready. ZD would now like this taken forward a.s.a.p. He would, therefore, like this document adopted.

WS mentioned the final page; “National Association of Councils of Voluntary Service” is now “National Association for Voluntary and Community Action”.

Also Point 2 “Develop links with other groups in Bristol...e.g. through the Consortium of Black Groups”, can mention be made of the “Equalities Action Group”? ZD agreed.

Both EW and SB wondered whether reference should be made to the “Bristol Partnership”. EW asked why, in line 1, it mentions “Bristol City Councils” Commitment, should this not be “Bristol Partnerships” Commitment? ZD accepts this as a fair point.

The Bristol Partnership should “sign off” the final version of the document, but WS feels it might be better to let them see the document in manageable pieces, rather than present the whole document, which could be quite daunting. Could this delay implementation of the document?

Statutory Sector Undertakings – Consultation with BME groups is not good at present.

The group are, basically, happy with the document and ZD was thanked for his hard work.

3. Up-date on VCS Strategy.

Not generally thought to be an improvement in the way the authority funds voluntary sector. GD and Helen Ball (HB) have had discussions with Cllr Gary Hopkins. He is to contact voluntary sector within next month to invite funding applications for 2007. It is anticipated the groups will be asked to apply by October.

The new strategy is, clearly not fit for purpose. The old strategy, with some amendment, will be implemented. It has been recognised that there will be a need to have the scope to fund new service requirements as they arise.

Groups should know by the end of the year how/if they will be funded in 2007.

Application pack/interim strategy to go out in August.

Final strategy to be agreed, by Cabinet, in December for implementation in 2008.

FD feels BCC must explain how they got this so badly wrong. They must learn from the mistakes made. This must not happen in the future.

AH believes the Council Working Group will go some way to ensuring this sort of thing does not occur again. GD agrees. FD feels the Compact Steering Group must ask these difficult questions and this will be a “win”.

WS wanted to know whether the results of the consultation will be made public. GD felt this should be possible.

Perhaps representatives from the voluntary sector should meet with BCC (GD/HB). HB

Profile document at meeting with Partnership in Oct’.

GD to see HB re meeting with individual group members. Results of consultation to be provided.

does want to meet with the infrastructure organisations.

4. Cross Council Working Group on Voluntary Sector.

Operates July-December and is undertaking a specific piece of work regarding consistency across Council dept's and how they deal with voluntary groups.

Are the monitoring arrangements too cumbersome?

The "Lead Officer" idea needs strengthening within BCC.

Groups can duplicate work if they receive funding from more than a single Council service.

AH is sure there has to be consultation with key stakeholders, including the voluntary and community sector.

FD is clear there must be dialogue and BCC must not simply tell groups what has been decided.

WS thinks this should be in the form of a focus group rather than a, more formal, select committee.

Following a general discussion around the problems with the monitoring system, GD accepted there were things which needed to be tackled.

AH assured EW that there was PCT representation on the working group.

GD believes transparency must improve and perhaps more information could be provided via the web site.

WS asked about "value mapping" and "psychometric testing". GD confirmed this had been proposed but was "on ice". It is not, generally, thought this would be helpful.

5. Any Other Business.

GD to attend future meetings.

GD to provide group with briefing note following meeting 27th July, & Project Plan.

FD mentioned a proposal, before the Bristol Partnership regarding an away day to discuss the partnership draft agreement. Possibly this could be an opportunity to utilise the “score sheet” and FD feels the Compact should endorse this piece of work. The group accepted the proposal.

FD then asked about the Safer and Stronger Communities funding. GD confirmed the release of this money had been agreed and the matter was now with finance. Whilst this is good news there is an issue about the conduct of this piece of commissioning work. Discussions began in July 2005 and the piece of work was actually “signed off” in April 2006 and to date no funds have been forthcoming.

Both FD and ZD feel the procedure for this year has been very badly handled with various obstacles placed in the way of the voluntary sector and ZD wants to be sure all the requirements have been met and the funds will, actually, be released. As there is no SLA saying what BCC expect from the sector it is difficult to know whether there are yet more “hoops” to negotiate.

Whilst, at this stage, the disputes procedure has not been finalised it is, perhaps, appropriate to bring such problems to the Steering Group as a last resort. Hopefully, in view of the change in management, such difficulties will not arise again.

6/7. Feed back from Away day &

Discussion on Implementation Plan.

Suzanne Hands thanked for producing notes/presentation from Away day.

Some criticism of hand out provided, not enough time to digest its contents prior to meeting.

Presentation too rushed.

ZD had to leave the meeting at this point.

There was a general discussion around the 32 points listed from the Away day. In view of time constraints it was felt the key actions could not be properly finalised and it was agreed this should be a piece of work completed outside the meeting. Possibly the points could be grouped together headings; Partnership, Marketing, Learning, Resourcing, BME, Financing.

Some points can be deleted.

SB suggested mention of The Compact could be made in the Local Area Agreement Statement of Community Involvement. Obviously details of the text to be included can be circulated to members.

8. Appointment of Acting Chair.

AH feels a Vice Chair, from the voluntary sector, should be elected. The Vice and GD to plan agenda in future. Members of group from voluntary sector to decide upon a Vice Chair. Possibly Vice Chair could take over Chair in April, this can be discussed at a later meeting.

9. Dates of next meetings.

Friday 22nd September 2006 11:30-1:30 at The Council House. (PM gave his apologies-on leave).

Tuesday 12th December 2006 2:00-4:00 at The Care Forum (lecture room).

GD, in consultation with AE, to draft "Key Priorities" from these points.

