

North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

Compact Reference Group

Minutes of meeting held on 26 May 2009

Attendance

Jim Nichols, Manager, CVS Arran
Stephen McLaughlin, Manager, The Volunteer Centre North Ayrshire
John McKnight, Principal Officer, Community Learning and Development, North Ayrshire Council (**CHAIR**)
Sarah Gilmour, Community Planning Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
Ann Robertson, Community Representative, Neighbourhood Compact
Gordon Jones, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Strathclyde Police

In attendance

Shirley Laidlaw, Community Planning Assistant, North Ayrshire Council
Justina Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator, North Ayrshire Council
David Mitchell, Community Education Worker, North Ayrshire Council

Apologies

Alan Murray, Community Planning Manager, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
Craig Crosthwaite, Development Worker, CVSna
Carole Blair, Public Partnership Co-ordinator, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Clive Shephard, Representative, North Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations (NAFCA)

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and the above apologies and non-apologies were noted. It was agreed that John would write to Strathclyde Fire and Rescue; Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland to check if they wished to continue as members of the Group, or simply be kept on the mailing list for information.

1. Minutes of meeting on 30 March 2009

Agenda Item 3 – Compact Action Plan - Funding

Jim asked if the last minute could be changed to read that “John McKnight was unable to report to the last meeting and was going to report to this meeting on the way forward.”

John would update on this item under matters arising.

The minutes were then approved.

2. Matters Arising

a) Action checklist/ task list

- 2a – PPVote training – due to Chris Lawrence’s leave Shirley was still to complete this. **ACTION: SHIRLEY**
- 2b – LSEP – Jim advised that there has not been a meeting since the last meeting of this Group– Craig to update at next meeting **ACTION: CRAIG**
- 2c – DDA Works - Clive to update on this at next meeting **ACTION: CLIVE**

- 2d – Equipment List for Community Centre – David advised that he had spoken to Donna and there is no such list. It was suggested that David look into the list of pat tested equipment for the centres
ACTION: DAVID
- 3 – Dianna Whyte to attend next meeting – Justina advised that Dianna was unavailable for today's meeting but she will check for the next one.
ACTION: JUSTINA

Funding

John advised that there are no specific proposals in place to transfer funding as it stands today, however, the Council is going to be operating differently in the future. CLD are looking at locality planning as a concept. This is where staff in a local area would be working together across services, and the next step to this would be locality budgets. Although there are no changes at the moment to the Local Area Committees, this may be an option in the future.

Jim stated that his original request was for the community/voluntary sector to have an input to the CLD reports to the Area Committees (i.e. the process) rather than the decision making process of allocating funding. This could be done through an amendment to the report that was submitted to the committee to carry a recommendation from the community/voluntary sector to the funding proposal as well as the recommendation from the Council officer involved.

After discussion it was agreed that John would meet with the Chief Executive's Section, as they provide the template for the reports, to discuss adding this section into the reports.
ACTION: JOHN

There was also some discussion on who from the community/voluntary sector should be approached, but it was agreed to further discuss this at a later date when the changes have been made to the reporting template.

3. Compact Action Plan, 2009/10

The draft Compact Action Plan, 2009/10 had been written up for the group following discussion at the last meeting. The lead responsibility and timescale sections required to be completed by the Group.

It was agreed to go through each action and allocate responsibility and timescales.

It was agreed that a new action was to be added under - **3.1 b** - the role of this committee in monitoring compliance of partners with the Compact agreement

There was some discussion on creating a funding hub for North Ayrshire. Jim advised that these take place in other areas and are very successful. It gives the opportunity for all funders to come together and answer any questions. Jim noted that these 'hubs' may only take place once or twice per year. Justina proposed that this issue could be discussed with Dianna Whyte at the next meeting.

Justina advised that all comments would be added to the Action Plan for the next meeting and that this would be a standing item on the agenda.
ACTION: JUSTINA / ALL

4. Draft Compact Communications Strategy

A copy of Justina and David's reports on the draft Compact Communications Strategy had been circulated to the Group. These had been produced following a sub-meeting to discuss Communications.

It had been agreed at the meeting to look at simplifying the language within the Compact and draft the Strategy.

Stephen noted the following points:

- Under target audience the general community members of the public are missing
- Under the public sector will there is an inconsistency with their plans and the plans
- Under the c/v sector will – should read the “.... the local groups and people with whom they need to talk.”

It was agreed that Justina and David's reports be merged together into one document. A new section on Methods should be added with points taken from the action plan on what these methods are going to be. **ACTION: JUSTINA**

There was some discussion on the role of a 'community champion', for the Compact. It was agreed to invite Councillor McNamara along to the next meeting to give more information on his remit as 'community champion' within the Council's Executive. It was agreed that Shirley would draft a letter for John to sign as the Chair of the group.

ACTION: SHIRLEY/JOHN

5. Re-launching the Compact

This item had been carried over for discussion from the last meeting and links to Item 6.

A major issue for the Compact is that public sector partners don't see how they connect the community/voluntary sector or why they should.

Gordon advised that he is the Local Authority Liaison Officer with a remit to link/share information, but is not sure what else he can contribute.

John clarified that this Group should be used if the Police want to take a message to the communities in North Ayrshire on any strategy that they are developing.

Sarah advised that SPT have also had this discussion and although they are unsure of what they can bring to the table, they will keep attending the Group and flagging up information that may be of relevance.

David suggested that in the absence of a mechanism in place the role of the future community/voluntary sector forum would be to meet with the public sector partners with ideas of how to consult effectively.

Stephen advised that in South Ayrshire the voluntary sector have created an equivalent group for every CPP Group.

There was some discussion on the methods of consultation that NHS Ayrshire and Arran use at the moment, and the reliance on the PPF for consultation.

Stephen noted that the third sector needs to get fully involved and participate and build themselves as strong partners.

John noted that the Compact has got to show its value and produce outcomes.

John also noted that the new Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council will take up position on 1st June and this may create changes in community/voluntary sector engagement approach. Political commitment could come from a 'Community Champion', as discussed.

It was agreed that the re-launch should take place by the end of the year, as this would allow time for the Group to get more information on the 'community champion' and also give the new Chief Executive time to start and become involved in the Compact, which would ensure commitment from the Council.

6. Re-engaging the public sector partners

This item had been carried from the last meeting, and had been discussed above. It was agreed the main role relates to information sharing.

There was some further discussion on how public sector partners can contribute to the meetings, e.g. possible reporting by Police, Fire, Health and SPT on issues of relevance to the Group. This could be issues relating to up and coming consultations, strategies, activities, etc.

After discussion it was agreed that a brief template be issued to partners for them to complete for each meeting. Partners could add a few bullet points of items which would be of specific interests to all partners, both voluntary & public sector.

ACTION: JUSTINA/SHIRLEY

7. AOB

a) Quarterly reporting to CPP Management Group (confirmation of timetable and responsibilities)

It was agreed John, as the Chair of the Group, would report to the management Group on the 15th July and 2nd December. On occasions where John is unable to attend, another member of the Compact Reference Group would also be in attendance.

Volunteer Week

Stephen advised that Volunteer's Week 2009 would run from 1st to 7th June. The Volunteer Centre is hosting an Oscar's Ball at Seamill Hydro next week as part of Volunteer Week.

8. Date of Next meeting

This had been previously agreed as Tuesday 30 June 2009, but as this was unsuitable for some members of the Group it was agreed to move this to Tuesday 7th July at 10am, Michael Lynch Centre.