

**Report Title:** Slough Compact

**Report to:** LSP Board  
**From:** Ramesh Kukar, Slough Compact Management Group

**Focus:** All Wards

**PDGs:** LSP Board and all PDGs

## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to refresh the commitment from the LSP to a compact way of working in the development of policy, planning, and delivery of LAA targets. These recommendations have been discussed and agreed by the Slough Compact Management Group.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the principles and values of the Slough compact continue to underpin LSP partnership governance and effective delivery of multi-agency and cross sector initiatives. That each of the PDGs discuss the Slough compact and work towards its principles and values.
- 2.2 That the LSP partnership organisations promote the awareness and use of the Slough compact by ensuring that new staff joining their organisation have induction in its principles and values.
- 2.3 That the LSP Board receives a report annually from the Slough Compact Management Group, logging compact non compliance and compact wins.
- 2.4 That the LSP take the opportunity to adopt NI 7, “An environment for a thriving third sector”, as a local target.
- 2.5 That an amount is allocated, top sliced, from the LPSA reward Grant to cover the 2 year work programme of the Slough compact and participation worker. To ensure effective participation from the voluntary sector in LSP structures, LAA targets and SBC service delivery.

## **3. The Slough Compact**

- 3.1 Slough’s Compact between the voluntary and community sector and the statutory organisations in Slough was agreed in 2006. Its development was supported by a Steering Group established by Slough Focus.

- 3.2 The first task that the Slough Compact Management Group (SCMG) undertook was to develop the overall guiding principles that the Slough Compact would be based on and to draft the main Compact document.
- 3.3 The Slough Compact promotes a set of underpinning values that encourage mutual respect between the voluntary sector and the statutory sector. All signatories have a common goal to make Slough the best possible place to live for every one of it's residents by working together to achieve more for Slough's residents. They will:
- Respect each other's aims and objectives
  - Be flexible, adaptable and open to new ways of working together
  - Recognise and treat each other as equal partners
- 3.4 Underpinning the Slough Compact are 8 protocols that outline ways in which the voluntary sector and the statutory sector can work together in partnership for the benefit of Slough's communities. Each protocol is a written document providing a framework within which public and third sector organisations can understand what to expect from each other. They provide a set of practical guidelines for working together that can be checked. Protocols have been developed for the following areas:
- Finance and funding
  - Accommodation and premises
  - Communication
  - Community engagement
  - Partnership working
  - Commissioning, Procurement and Contracts
  - Community Development and Capacity Building
  - Volunteering
- 3.5 The Compact has been given a significant boost with the establishment of the Compact Commission. A major national consultation is now examining whether the Compact or the Commission, or both, need statutory powers to enhance their effectiveness.

#### **4. Benefits of VCO Partnerships**

- 4.1 At their best Voluntary and Community Organisations are flexible, responsive and able to work with those the public sector often finds hard to engage. As a consequence VCOs can and do:
- Possess a wealth of local knowledge;
  - Enhance social inclusion and citizenship;

- Have a beneficial impact on the local economy – providing people with life skills and employment opportunities; and
  - Offer choice of service
- 4.2 These features give the sector a unique capacity to act in relation to the public sector as:
- Advocates on behalf of often marginalised groups within the community;
  - Advisors on service design and the needs of service users; and
  - In some cases, as the providers of those services.
- 4.3 Through their independent actions VCOs also offer support and activities that help people feel connected to the places where they live and the communities they live within.

## **5. Delivering LAAs**

- 5.1 The number of national indicators against which central government measures local government performance has been reduced to a National Indicator set of 198. Slough, is required to agree 35 of these targets to include in their LAA. Though Slough has not selected NI6 or NI7 (Volunteering & Thriving 3<sup>rd</sup> sector) as a LAA priority, it is recognised that VCOs contribute across the board of the 198 indicators.
- 5.2 The new LAA guidance and the new place shaping guidance for LSPs assert even more strongly than before the importance of community engagement. They insist that organisations and groups which are in touch with marginalised people especially should be able to influence both the Community Strategy and LAA priorities – and thus LAA spend.
- 5.3 Whilst there is a clear agreement that the VCS should be involved in strategic decision making (both with respect to the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LAA) through the LSP structures and the various thematic partnerships that sit beneath them, there is currently little consensus on how this should be resourced or achieved.

## **6.0 Resources for VCO engagement**

- 6.1 SBC's submission to GOSE on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008 states:

“Slough continues to be committed to strengthen the participation of its VCS in the development and implementation of the LAA. Slough's VCS contribution is in a range of ways:

- Service design, planning, delivering with high levels of trust from users
- Enabling strong and meaningful community participation in decision-making;
- Builders of social capital and community cohesion;
- A source of expertise; and
- Part of the governance, monitoring and evaluation of the LAA

The principles of VCS participation in the development and implementation of the LAA are based upon and echo Slough's Compact. The Compact is the outcome of an extensive planning process among statutory and voluntary sector partners and relied on the participation of those partners in its production.

In our first LAA we identified that formal methods and structures to elicit representative views and participate in decision-making from the VCS were lacking. The recent ongoing participation work that brings together the LPSA and ChangeUp Infrastructure Development Plan through the work of the Participation and Compact Worker has facilitated progress in this area.”

- 6.2 The Participating and Compact worker, based at SCVS, was funded from October 2007 to September 2008, by a £25k from an initial pump priming grant from LPSA2 Target 10 and match funding from ChangeUP (CapacityBuilders) on the Compact principles of full cost recovery basis. From Oct 2008 to March 2009, it will be funded by SCVS under-spend & unrestricted funds. However to ensure the continuation of the post and work programme Funding is needed from April 2009 onwards.
- 6.3 Slough LAA's statement of Community and Voluntary sector Involvement has an intention that “it is anticipated that appropriate reward money from Government for LPSA targets will be reinvested in the VCS to build strength and capacity in this area”.
- 6.4 Slough CVS has committed resources to March 2009 to ensure the continuation of the series of engagement and capacity building activities involving VCS including: Slough Community Network, development of community champions, representations at PDGs, dissemination of information to groups, networking events between public and VCS, training etc. For this work programme to continue and be further developed in response to future requirements the LSP needs to develop a mechanism to resource the Participation and Compact Worker post.