

February 2012

Dear Colleague

Sunderland Compact

The Sunderland Partnership would like to invite you, on behalf of your organisation, to sign up to the Sunderland Compact – available at www.sunderland.gov.uk/compact

The Sunderland Compact provides a framework for improving relationships between organisations of the Sunderland Partnership and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, which will support the delivery of the Sunderland Strategy: www.sunderland.gov.uk/strategy resulting in improved outcomes for the citizens of Sunderland.

Benefits of becoming a Sunderland Compact signatory include:

- Increased understanding by others of your organisation's purpose role and contribution to the delivery of the Sunderland Strategy
- Regular contacts to increase your understanding of relevant issues across the city
- Easier opportunities to get involved in decision making and to access funding
- Improved understanding of the partnerships in the city and their work.

The main Compact document sets out the general themes which underpin the framework and the supporting Codes of Practice give more detail on areas covering:

Funding and procurement
Volunteering
Involvement and consultation
Voluntary and community groups
Older persons
Disability

The documents can be accessed at www.sunderland.gov.uk/compact

We are inviting all organisations through their Chief Officers and decision making structures to support a Compact way of working and sign and return the attached pro-forma.

Following the return of the form and sign up, organisations will receive a unique registration number and will be registered onto www.sunderland.gov.uk/compact

The number will act as confirmation that your organisation agrees to work in partnership to achieve a Compact way of working.

A Compact Implementation Group (CIG) made up of Statutory and VCS partners has been established and will feed into Sunderland Partnership's governance structures and processes. The CIG will seek to ensure all signatory organisations develop a Sunderland Compact way of working and embed the key principles into the values and operations of organisations.

You will note from the attached sign up form we are asking you to consider how you may be considering adopting the key principles of the Compact.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter please do not hesitate to contact either Jessica May, Partnership Manager or Andrew Copland, Senior Partnership Officer, at Sunderland Partnership on (0191) 561 1614, or email compact@sunderland.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Watson
Leader Sunderland City Council
Sunderland Partnership Non-Executive Board