

**THE REDBRIDGE COMPACT**

“*Good Practice for Working Together*”

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

*Redbridge Compact is a joint agreement*

*between voluntary groups and public bodies*

*and exists to help the partners improve*

*their relationship for mutual advantage and*

*community gain.*

**Introduction**

Redbridge has a thriving voluntary and community sector, which makes a significant contribution to public life and the development of quality local services. Much of this work is the result of the strong, healthy and vibrant partnerships between the voluntary sector and the public sector.

The Redbridge Compact was ‘refreshed’ in 2011 following extensive consultation with stakeholders. In 2013-2014, the Compact Champions group was scheduled to meet quarterly to oversee the implementation the Redbridge Compact 2011-2014, including through the development and monitoring of a 3 year Action Plan. Only one meeting (October 2013) was actually held during that time – though the Action Plan was regularly monitored and updated via email exchanges.

**Redbridge Compact Champions Group**

The Compact Champions group is made up of senior offices from the Council, the NHS, the local Police service, the local Fire service, RedbridgeCVS, Redbridge Faith Forum and the Redbridge Public and Voluntary Sectors’ Partnership. It is scheduled to meet quarterly to discuss and review the implementation of the Compact, to look for opportunities for collaborative working, to identify any under-performance and identify remedial actions as necessary. It oversees the development and implementation of a three-year Action Plan.

The Compact Champions for the year were:-

Steve Brown (Fire Service Redbridge) - Chair

Ross Diamond (RedbridgeCVS) - Vice Chair

John Powell (LBR)

Jacquie Grieve (Redbridge Faith Forum)

Nicholas Hurst (Public and Voluntary Sectors’ Partnership)

Louise Mitchell (NHS ONEL)

*Vacancy* (Redbridge Police)

Officer Support was provided by Shila Barber (LBR)

**Achievements for 2013-14**

The Action Plan for the year is attached as Appendix 1 of the report. In addition to the activities shown there, we are proud to note that Redbridge was shortlisted in two categories for national Compact Awards.

* Equalities Award: **RedbridgeCVS** **“1,000 minds”:** the projectraised awareness of Dementia in the BAME communities;workshops were delivered to over 1,000 individuals on treatment and how to access support services. This was funded by NHS Redbridge, and delivered by RedbridgeCVS in partnership with LBR’s Living Well Centre.
* Partnerships Award: **Redbridge First Response Service:** a new multi-agency partnership between the GP, voluntary sector and public sector partners to ensure that the referral loop is closed by working in partnership for service users to access preventive services and support networks.

In a separate development the national organisation, Compact Voice, produced a good practice Case Study on the Redbridge Faith Forum’s award winning work in 2012/13. This focused on the engagement of faith and community leaders in a workshop on Adults at Risk of Abuse or Neglect; the Redbridge Faith Forum’s support of LBR’s Adult Social Services in completing an inter-cultural spiritual care directory called ’To Comfort Always’, which aims to support patients and families to prepare for end of life arrangements; and the engagement of the Registrar for Births, Deaths and Marriages with a Faith Forum event on arrangements for registering deaths.

The year saw many changes in local services, not least of which was the introduction of the new Clinical Commissioning Groups, and other changes following from NHS reforms. The new Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Group heard a presentation on the Compact at one of its early Board meetings and formally agreed to adopt the Compact principles.

Despite the difficulties the partners had in attending meetings, all partners continued to express support for the Compact and the Compact Champions engaged in email discussions on issues as they arose.

**Compliance Issues**

A number of specific issues of concern were discussed by the Champions over the year. It was noted that all public sector partners should include a statement about how they are complying with the Compact when they are undertaking consultations - or giving clear reasons on the occasions when they may not be able to meet all the requirements. At least one consultation deadline was extended in line with Compact principles as a result of using the Compact Champions processes outside of the meeting cycle.

**Future Plans**

The Redbridge Compact will be due for review in 2014/15. It is also likely that the Compact Champions Group will recognise the time constraints all partners have which affect their ability to attend meetings and may move to having two meetings per year, with quarterly updates of the Action Plan done via email exchanges.