

## Newsletter 3 | Autumn 2008

### A Compact for Devon has won Local Compact of the Year Award!

The **Partnership Code of Practice** for the Compact for Devon is going to be presented with a National Award in Excellence in Compact Practice on 5 November, during Compact Week. These annual awards from the *Commission for the Compact* demonstrate the Compact in action and recognise and celebrate excellence in partnership working.

This Highly Commended Certificate came as a result of the careful planning in developing the process for the Partnership Code. During 2007-2008 the Devon Compact Hub developed three further Compact Codes of Practice, building on the existing successful Codes (*Funding & Procurement, Volunteering and Equality & Diversity*). The new Codes (*Community Groups, Consultation, and Partnership*) were developed in collaboration with a range of stakeholders from the voluntary and community sector and the statutory sector.

The decision was taken to develop a *Partnership Code of Practice*, one of the first of its kind, and it was this Code that was nominated for the Compact Award. We had some good examples of partnership working in Devon, but there was a general view that we would benefit from the opportunity to review and reflect, and build a better framework for the future.

Few local Compacts have gone on to develop a specific Partnership Code of Practice (COP), although many refer to or have sections that address partnership working. We took the decision to invest time, energy and resources on a specific Partnership COP on the basis that it

would create the opportunity for partners to properly reflect on the challenges, barriers and successes of partnership working to date, and identify what could be done in the future to build on successes and address barriers.

We are proud of our Partnership Code of Practice. Many other local Compact areas have asked to see the document, but more importantly they have also asked lots of questions about the development of the document and the challenges and complexities we faced in its development. In sharing this, we have been pleased to share what we consider to be best practice in local partnership working.

For more information about the Compact, please contact your local Champion. A list of which can be found on the Devon Consortium website at [www.devonconsortium.net](http://www.devonconsortium.net)

Congratulations to everyone involved in the development of the Code, and thank you to our funders Devon County Council, and Capacitybuilders. Well done Devon!



#### Dates for your Diary:

Compact Week	<b>1-8 Nov</b>
Devon Consortium Management Board	<b>18 Nov</b>
Full Consortium	<b>4 Dec</b>
Compact Hub	<b>21 Jan</b>
VCS Assembly	<b>25 Feb</b>

#### Special points of interest:

- **The CPR Programme gets underway, with a new worker. Page 2.**
- **Total Support—Summary of the bid. Page 3.**
- **Capacitybuilders Update. Page 3.**
- **Jargon Buster. Page 4.**

## New Worker Starts on Collaboration, Partnership & Representation Programme



The Collaboration, Partnership and Representation Programme (CPRP) now has a Project Lead in post. David Waddilove, who is based at Exeter CVS, began on 1 October to coordinate the new Modernisation Programme, funded by Capacitybuilders.

Among other things, David will be involved in taking forward the implementation of the Compact for Devon, which has just been nominated for a National Award (see page 1).

We now have six Compact Codes of Practice, with the recent publication of the Consultation; Partnership and Community Groups COP. Part of David's job will be to increase awareness of the Compact; to publicise its successes, to support its champions and to make sure that it gets into the 'folkways' of organisations rather than being something that is only referred to when things get difficult.

David will be looking to broaden the base of the work, increase the signatory list, and ensure that this is a living process rather than a bureaucratic exercise. David will be trying to get the Compact into the style, systems and attitude of organisations in Devon and welcomes opportunities to do this - through involvement in induction programmes, strategic development, conferences, workshops or whatever routes seem available. All ideas, however surreal, are welcomed.

It's National Compact Week soon: from 1 - 8 November, and there are a number of events and displays being generated by Compact Champions across the county.

We've got a collection of resources that will be available to support activities. These will include copies of the 'Local Compact Implementation Workbook' and Mini-guide that have been developed nationally; posters and

display materials, and a DVD of the 'Volunteer Vera' mini-drama. There are also lots of sets of the Compact and the Codes of Practice available. They are also available electronically on the Devon Consortium website.

David has said "most of my recent years have been spent in running the 'new types of worker' project for Skills for Care for the Department of Health, and running and working in training departments within health and social care.

I've also been involved in training of 'experts by experience' to deliver courses to professional staff; the establishment of a virtual college, carers' networks and the use of community music to support the national Music Manifesto."

David is a trained social worker who has spent most of his (wandering) career working within community mental health and learning disability services, and is looking forward to promoting the Compact and expanding on the work of Representation and Communities of Interest within the Consortium.

David will work with VCS organisations and Statutory organisations to ensure the representation process is effective, as well as establishing representatives for the Communities of Interest by December 2009. This will help to implement a number of processes through which VCS issues reach Local Strategic Partnerships and the Local Area Agreement decision makers in Devon.

He will also be working with the Consortium Diversity Steering Group (DSG) to ensure that each element is accessible to all, particularly disadvantaged groups, ensuring there is opportunity for all who wish to be involved to be so.

Debate, suggestions and criticisms are invited. To get in touch, email David at [cpr@devonconsortium.net](mailto:cpr@devonconsortium.net) or contact him on 01392 202057.

## 'Total Support' Programme: Devon Consortium's application to the Big Lottery BASIS 2 funding stream

**Building a Strong Voluntary and Community Sector in Devon : Responding to the needs of frontline voluntary and community organisations.**

The Devon Consortium has applied for Big Lottery funding under their BASIS2 funding programme to deliver the **Total Support** Project. This project will do what it says – aim to meet the **total support** needs of frontline organisations, specifically capacity building and volunteer-involving needs, across Devon, excluding the unitaries of Plymouth and Torquay.

The **Total Support** Project has two strands, both targeting rural areas:

**Frontline Support** – aims to ensure that capacity building support effectively reaches frontline organisations

**Rural Volunteering** – aims to provide opportunities for individuals to actively engage in community life, to build stronger communities and reduce social exclusion.

The key focus will be the deep rural parishes.

Project activities will include:

- One-to-one 'health checks' for frontline organisations. Delivery of identified capacity building support through tailored projects
- Developing a proactive strategy for 'reaching out' to organisations using significant numbers of volunteers, but

who don't yet seek support and guidance from infrastructure organisations

- Benchmarking survey of the VCS to create a full picture of the voluntary and community sector in Devon
- Review of working practices amongst infrastructure services, focusing on better understanding of existing capacity and gaps for providing 'total support' to frontline organisations, with the aim of improving and consolidating good practice
- Promotion of peer support as a means of sharing and promoting good practice
- Networking events, relevant to the training and development needs of organisations and voluntary groups, and those with a voice within their community
- Promotional 'roadshow' of the project and its outcomes to promote learning and best practice
- Bespoke training and development programme, which considers issues of accreditation, covering topics such as social enterprise, commissioning, procurement, sustainable funding etc.

We will hear in January 2009 if we have been successful. If we are, we will consult widely with the VCS in Devon to make sure that as we develop the **Total Support** Project, we really do meet identified need.

## Capacitybuilders Update

Capacitybuilders' successful recruitment drive has resulted in a range of new appointments across the organisation to take forward their commitments to improve learning across their work and programmes and develop their role as an influential partner. This includes new Chief Executive Matt Leach; Liz Daw—Head of Programmes; and Claire Williams, the South West Grants Officer.

New team members have welcomed the

opportunity to meet grant-holders at their recent series of regional events, that continue over the month of October.

Their strengthened team are committed to build on Capacitybuilders' work to date, and focus on achieving the commitments and plans for 2008-2011 as set out in their Corporate Plan. For more information, please see [www.capacitybuilders.org.uk](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk)

## Jargon Buster

**BASIS 2:** This is a stream of funding from The Big Lottery to continue to complement, but not duplicate government initiatives such as ChangeUp and Capacitybuilders. It is building on a strong history of Lottery funding in this area that is responding to a key need amongst VCS organisations.

**Capacitybuilders:** A note on style. This is one word, the 'b' is not capitalised, and there is no inverted comma at the end.

**Collaboration, Partnership and Representation (CPRP):** The new programme run by Exeter CVS for the Consortium. See page 2.

**Communities of Interest (COI):** This is made up of other consortium members, representing various equality strands. These operate using a mixture of technology, meetings and other forums to involve self selecting stakeholders. The Devon Consortium actively supports COIs and plan to provide opportunities for further COIs to be enabled, mapped onto the various blocks of the Devon LAA but also responding to grassroots need.

**Critical friend:** Someone who gives advice and support but also challenges and holds you accountable. They celebrate successes and commiserate about failures and give honest feedback and suggestions for positive change.

**Diversity Steering Group (DSG):** A group with representatives from various diversity strands to ensure that all DC plans and programmes are inclusive and promote equality for all.

**Frontline Organisation:** VCOs working directly with the public, or particular target groups or communities.

**Governance:** Refers to way staff work with trustees, senior managers, volunteers, service users, members and other stakeholders to ensure things run effectively and meet the needs and aims of the organisation.

**Infrastructure:** The physical facilities, structures, systems, relationships, people, knowledge and skills that exist to support and develop, coordinate, represent and promote frontline organisations thus enabling them to deliver their missions and services more effectively.

**Local Area Agreement (LAA):** The Local Area Agreement supports the DC's efforts to work together in addressing the issues that concern local people, giving us greater flexibility to direct resources where they are needed most. In addition, it frees partners from elements of bureaucracy and supports the improvement of local public services.

**Local Strategic Partnership (LSP):** Representatives from major statutory, voluntary & community and business organisations in a district who meet to discuss and plan how their various activities should complement each other. There is a Local Strategic Partnership for each of the 8 districts of Devon and one for Devon-wide organisations called the Devon Strategic Partnership.

**Representation:** The Devon Consortium represents interests of the community and voluntary sector at Devon Strategic Partnerships in order to create better systems of accountability and an open flow of information and dialogue between members, representatives and statutory bodies.

**Useful link:** [www.changeup.org.uk/overview/jargon.asp](http://www.changeup.org.uk/overview/jargon.asp)

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