

<b>Officer responsible</b> Director of Policy	<b>Author</b> Mary Richardson
Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the development of a Compact (Agreement) to underpin the on-going relationships between the Council and the voluntary and community sector in Christchurch.

### INTRODUCTION

At its meeting of 5 July 1999 the Committee agreed that the establishment of a Compact is a positive way forward which would facilitate and underpin the Council's relationship with the sector.

The Committee requested that staff report back to the August meeting on possible partners to the Compact. The Committee also requested copies of a similar Compact developed in the United Kingdom.

### BACKGROUND

The Council has recognised the critical role played by the voluntary and community sector in the city. It has acknowledged that an independent and diverse voluntary and community sector is fundamental to the social and political well-being of Christchurch.

The Council is also looking at ways to implement the principles of community governance. These principles identify that the Council has key roles in empowering their communities and recognising and enabling the contribution of not-for-profit organisations.

The Council therefore wishes to enhance the relationship between the Council and the voluntary and community sector.

### THE COMPACT

The Compact would acknowledge the role the sector plays in identifying community concerns, contributing to policy development, service and programme delivery and promoting democratic and civil processes.

The Compact would acknowledge and encourage the independence of the sector as well as the diverse range of perspectives, values and reasons for being within the sector.

The first phase is to discuss the proposal with organisations likely to be affected by the Compact. A more formal proposal and consultation process would be developed if the initial feedback is positive.

## **PARTNERS TO THE COMPACT**

It is envisaged that the Compact would initially be between the Council and the voluntary social service sector. If, during the consultation, it became apparent that the scope should be widened it may be expanded to include other sections of the voluntary and community sector, for example the community arts and leisure sectors.

There is extreme diversity and complexity amongst groups within the sector. However, many groups in the sector have formed formal and informal networks, liaison groups or forums based on shared focus, philosophy, or clients, for example the Refuge and Migrant Forum, the Youthworkers' Collective, COSS, and the OSCAR Network.

There are also networks which have developed based on shared locality, for example Community Liaison Groups. Ngai Tahu plus taura here groups also have networks based on tribal affiliation and there are also pan-tribal networks.

There are also larger voluntary organisations which act as umbrella organisations for a number of smaller projects, for example Anglican Care, Methodist Mission, PSS, and Barnados.

It is envisaged that the initial consultation regarding the Compact would be with these umbrella organisations, networks, liaison fora and linking bodies.

## **UK COMPACT**

A copy of the United Kingdom Compact is attached as requested. This Compact was developed over a three-year period. It sets out the values, principles, commitment and codes of practices which underpin the relationship between the Government and voluntary and community sector in the United Kingdom.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that:

1. The Committee note the contents of this report.
2. Policy and Community Advisers continue discussion with relevant agencies in the sector regarding the proposal to develop a Compact.

## **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.