

Appendix E – Partnership Compact between Spelthorne Borough Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector (Signed Dec 2003)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this compact between Spelthorne Borough Council (SBC) and the voluntary and community organisations working within the Borough is to:

- Enhance working relationships
- Reduce the uncertainty regarding long term funding for those groups reliant on grant aid from SBC and
- Clarify and agree the expectation and outcomes from the partnership

2. Statement of Intent

- a) All partners recognise the importance of partnerships and partnership working between voluntary and community organisations and the Borough Council for the benefit of the Spelthorne Community.
- b) The compact has been developed as a result of consultation with local voluntary and community organisations and Spelthorne Borough Council

3. Partnership

The Council and the voluntary sector in Spelthorne will work together in partnership:

- To resolve issues which affect the Community
- To identify emerging needs and seek to address them
- To ensure that planning and the provision of services complements and supports the Spelthorne Community Plan, North Surrey Health and Social Care Improvement Plan and any other relevant plan
- To identify additional sources of funding and make bids to achieve community and voluntary sector development
- To work within a framework of best value in the delivery of services to local people

4. The Council

Spelthorne Borough Council (SBC) values the services and assistance provided by voluntary and community organisations for Spelthorne residents. It also recognises the independence of voluntary organisations, and the self-sufficiency of some group operating in the area.

The Council:

- a) will review the Grant Aid process with the voluntary sector including giving consideration to:
 - Entering into Service Level Agreements that include an exit strategy, a monitoring process for anticipated outcomes and funding covering a 4-year period
 - Supporting smaller organisations or specific projects by making one off grants, where appropriate
- b) will continue to provide 'support in kind' to the voluntary sector, such as letting premises to voluntary organisations and providing meeting facilities at the Knowle Green Offices

- c) is committed to working with voluntary and community organisations and other partners, including the North Surrey Primary Care Trust and Surrey County Council (Adult Services and Community Care, and Children’s Services), in such a way that planning initiatives can be taken forward effectively. To facilitate this, the Council will ensure that any relevant information is shared with voluntary and community organisations in sufficient time to enable meaningful consultation, which will potentially affect the existing and future provision of services.
- d) will further commit to ensuring that due weight is given to the views of the voluntary sector, including the cost implications of Borough initiatives for voluntary / community organisations.
- e) is working towards an agreement with other major funders of the voluntary sector, which aims to make core funding more secure for voluntary and community groups. In particular for services which match the priorities of the Spelthorne Community Plan and the North Surrey Health and Social Care Improvement Plan.

5. The Voluntary Sector

- a) Voluntary Action in Spelthorne (VAIS) is the link organisation, which has a unique role in supporting and representing the views of voluntary groups, and a lead responsibility for community development.
- b) VAIS is the main communication link and means of developing closer working relationships with voluntary/community groups who cover Spelthorne.
- c) In reviewing VAIS, Spelthorne Borough Council agrees to an annual contribution to core funding for VAIS, to secure the organisation’s future participation in all aspects of the community care planning process.
- d) VAIS on behalf of the voluntary sector within Community Link:
 - o Recognises that the Council will be subject to financial constraints in considering grant aid applications
 - o Agrees that voluntary organisations applying for Council grant will ensure the scheme meets the current criteria for grant before submitting the application
 - o Understands that the Council, when awarding grant aid, has a statutory duty to monitor the effective use of the money by the recipient organisation
- e) Voluntary organisations grant funded by the Council and not covered by VAIS in this agreement will be required to sign up to this compact as part of their Service Level Agreement.
- f) Voluntary organisations covered by this compact will endeavour to promote equality of opportunity and non-discriminatory practices in access and provision of services, access to premises and information for people with special needs, black, minority and ethnic groups.

6. Review

This compact will be reviewed in the light of experience, at least on an annual basis.

Signatories:

Spelthorne Borough Council
 VAIS
On behalf of voluntary and community sectors in Spelthorne