



## **THE REDBRIDGE COMPACT**

*“Good Practice for Working Together”*

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013**

*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 2012-2013, the Compact Champions group met regularly to oversee the implementation the Redbridge Compact 2011-2014, including through the development and monitoring of a 3 year action plan.

## **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 meets 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:-

John Powell (LBR) – Chair

Ross Diamond (RedbridgeCVS) - Vice Chair

Andrew Phillips/William Dunn (Fire Service Redbridge)

Jacquie Grieve (Redbridge Faith Forum)

Karen Tidbury/Michael Forbes (Redbridge Police)

Nicholas Hurst (Public and Voluntary Sectors' Partnership)

Louise Mitchell (NHS ONEL)

### The substitutes were:-

Steve Brown (Redbridge Fire Service), Elaine Casey (Redbridge Police), Carol Khorsandyon (Redbridge Faith Forum), Angela Burrows (NHS ONEL).

Officer Support was provided by Shila Barber (LBR), Caroline Martindale (LBR), John Turkson (LBR), Nicola Parry (LBR), Jimmy Maravala (LBR) and Kathy Davis (LBR).

## **Achievements for 2012-13**

The Action Plan for the year is attached as Appendix 1 of the report. In addition to the highlights of the achievements shown there, we are proud to note that Redbridge won a national Compact Award under the “Advancing Equalities” work led locally by the Redbridge Faith Forum. The nomination included a range of partnerships but it highlighted the work carried out with Adult Social Services. This work included three main strands:

- 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.

In addition, two other nominations from Redbridge were shortlisted and recognised by the Awards Panel.

In a separate development, the national organisation, Compact Voice, produced a good practice Case Study on the Redbridge Compact’s ‘refresh’ process, highlighting the many positive aspects of our Compact and the process of engagement by which it was produced.

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 Compact Champions discussed how best to ensure the voluntary and community sector could engage with these changes, for example, through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Some partners struggled to find consistent representatives due to changes in funding and senior staffing structures, but all partners continued to express support for the Compact and the Compact Champions.

## **Compliance Issues**

A number of specific issues of concern were discussed by the Champions Group 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. The importance of defining what is and what is not a 'consultation' event or process was also stressed.

Information to the voluntary sector – particularly around changes or reductions in funding – should be given in good time and with fully accurate reporting. It was noted that formal papers concerning voluntary organisations should not contain 'surprises', and groups that are the subject of such papers are given adequate time to respond.

## **Future Plans**

The new Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for Redbridge has agreed to consider formally adopting the Redbridge Compact, and a representative of the Redbridge Compact Champions group will be attending the CCG's Board meeting in May 2013 to discuss this.

As a result of legislative changes, such as the Localism Act and the Public Services (Social Value) Act, discussions were held about future commissioning patterns and processes and these will be ongoing into the next year.

An Action Plan for 2013-2014 is being drawn up for the year ahead and actions taken to ensure the spirit and letter of the Compact are widely understood and complied with. This will include items such as:

- Plans to 'refresh' and update the redbridge Volunteer Strategy
- Plans for the Clinical Commissioning Group to sign up to the Compact and provide a named "Champion"

The Compact Champions will continue to meet at least quarterly with the following dates confirmed:

- 4th July 2013
- 3rd October 2013
- 16th January 2014
- 10th April 2014