Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
29th July 2010

TITLE	**Compact**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This paper summarises the principles of the Compact. Nationally, the Compact is an agreement between the Government and third sector in England which sets out commitments on the way the Government and third sector will work together locally,. The Compact aims to govern the relationship between the voluntary sector and public bodies setting principles as to how these bodies can work effectively together. Locally, Compacts aim to govern the relationship between the voluntary and public sector. Surrey has a 'local' Compact and the paper recommends that the Trust become a signatory of the Surrey Compact.
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	Committing to the principles of the Compact and signing up to the local Compact would support the communications of the Trust with local voluntary services. No risk issues identified.
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Signing up to the local Compact would support our communications with other Stakeholder groups.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	No issues identified.
LEGAL ISSUES	No issues identified.
The Trust Board is asked to:	Approve the recommendation that the Trust become a signatory of the Surrey Compact.
Submitted by:	Jill Down, Head of Customer Affairs, For & on behalf of Andrew Liles, Chief Executive.
Date:	12.07.2010
Decision:	For Approving

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COMPACT

INTRODUCTION

The Compact is an agreement between the Government and the third sector in England. It sets out commitments on both sides to improve the way in which the Government and third sector work together for the benefit of communities and citizens. It is recognised that the Compact has different implications for different parts of the third sector. However, its aim is to frame a relationship whenever a third sector organisation has dealings with public bodies.

The Government uses the term "third sector" to describe voluntary and community organisations, charities, faith groups, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals.

The Government has signed up to the Compact, making it applicable to all central Government bodies in England. However, it is recognised that the majority of relationships between the third sector and public bodies exist at a local level. The national Compact does not directly apply to these relationships and the aim is that all public bodies sign up to local Compacts which govern the relationship between the voluntary sector and public bodies in a more "local" way.

VOLUNTEERING

The contribution of volunteers is a characteristic of the third sector with volunteers committing their time and energy to benefit society and communities by providing services and activities in many different ways. An aim of Compact is to ensure that the value of volunteers is recognised.

There are four principles that are fundamental to volunteering:

- Choice – volunteering must be a choice freely made by each individual.
- Diversity – volunteering should be open to all.
- Mutual benefits – both the volunteer and the organisation that the volunteer works with should benefit from the relationship.
- Recognition – the contribution of volunteers should be recognised.

(Ref. An Introduction to the Compact: The Compact on the relations between Government and the third Sector in England, December 2009 COI ref. 298441)

THE SURREY COMPACT

In line with national arrangements, the Surrey Compact is a commitment that sets principles to help Surrey's public bodies, voluntary, community and faith organisations to work better together (Ref. Surrey Compact).

The commitment of the Surrey Compact is described as:

- Sharing information and best practice between partners.
- Respecting inclusion and equality.
- All organisations having an equal voice.
- Trust and openness.
- Working together.
- Delivering better outcomes.
- Simplifying and improving the funding process.
- Improving communication and resolving disputes.
- The use of these to provide better services for people in Surrey.

It is proposed that the Trust become a signatory of the Surrey Compact. In so doing, the Trust is required to nominate a Compact Champion who will be a focal point for the Surrey Compact within the Trust. The Champion's role is to raise awareness, keep the organisation up to date and be an initial point of contact for matters relating to the Compact. In addition, the Champion will help to promote Compact principles and develop better communication between the Trust and voluntary sector organisations. Further, Champions are asked to share good practice, guide the Surrey Compact's overall direction and work and contribute to the development of Codes of Practice.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Trust sign up as a signatory to the Surrey Compact and that the Trust's Voluntary Services Manager be nominated to be the Trust's Champion.

Approximately 345 public and charitable bodes are signatories of the Surrey Compact. For a full list of signatories please go to:

www.sureycompact.org

Jill Down
Head of Customer Affairs
08 July 2010
For and on behalf of
Andrew Liles
Chief Executive