

Developing a formal partnership with voluntary sector providers in Oldham.

Introduction

Voluntary action Oldham is the lead support agency for voluntary and community action in Oldham. We have an established history and currently provide a range of free services to our 550 membership of voluntary and community organisations (VCO's). Please visit our website at www.vaoldham.org.uk/node/44 to find out more about us.

Oldham has an emerging formal partnership of voluntary sector providers called 'Society Works'. There are currently 23 organisations that have registered an interest in establishing a consortium (or similar formal partnership model). Initial scoping work has taken place to collect basic data about each organisation and understand their drivers and concerns with regard to establishing more formal working relationships. An initial launch event and discussion workshop has been held between 'Society Works' and local commissioners to explore opportunities for more coordinated and creative commissioning through the partnership. Please see the report of the event on our website for more details.

Our requirements

VAO are seeking to commission a consultant to carry out a series of work to develop formal partnership(s) with this group of voluntary sector providers.

This development work would include;

- Work with the 23 voluntary sector providers to develop the mechanisms that will underpin the formal partnership (consortium). This may include; agreeing the most relevant structure, membership criteria, risk assessments, roles and responsibilities of members etc.
- Work with the formal partnership (s) to identify and facilitate opportunities for collaborative bids or tenders to emerging opportunities.
- Liaise with Oldham Council and NHS commissioners (and others such as schools) to identify market opportunities for the sector. Facilitate the opportunity for ongoing dialogue between commissioners and the formal partnership(s).

The consultant will need to demonstrate:

- An understanding of working with voluntary and community organisations (large and small).
- A demonstrable track record of establishing formal partnerships amongst voluntary sector providers.

- A good understanding of commissioning process and experience of submitting tenders for contracts with public agencies.
- How they will sensitively manage this work with our membership and stakeholders

All data, the methodology and any materials or reports produced as a result of this work shall remain the intellectual property of Voluntary Action Oldham.

Project timescale

We would like the work to be completed in full by 30th September 2012.

Maximum Budget

£16000

Applications

Costed project proposals should be returned **by 9am on 13th February 2012.**

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Applications should include the following information:

1. Skills, experience and any qualifications of the person who would conduct the work
2. Presentation of your approach to the work
3. Project delivery proposal
4. Timescales, fees and any other costs involved
5. Two appropriate references

Selection process

Short listing will take place week commencing the 13th February and successful shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview the following week beginning 20th February.

Our selection criteria will be based on;

- Previous relevant formal partnership (consortia development) experience

- Proven ability to work to project timescales and deliver quality work to agreed deadlines
- Excellent understanding of the voluntary and community sectors
- Strength of the approach and style of delivery to match our requirement.