

## On a Mission

### Briefing of the Commissioning Policy Development Project Steering Group

Issue 1

December 2009

#### Background

The two-year Commissioning Policy Development Project has been established to produce a Funding, Commissioning and Procurement Code of Practice for public and third sector organisations in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff. It has its roots in the Merthyr Tydfil Compact and is one of the Compact's key objectives. It also builds on the Get fit for Commissioning event report produced by Interlink in 2006 and the Healthy Governance Toolkit developed by both Interlink and VAMT.

The projects outputs are:

- Good Practice Review
- Funding Code of Practice
- Commissioning Toolkit
- Joint public services policy
- Project implementation including training

Its outcomes are:

- Better informed and supported public and third sector organisations in relation to commissioning
- More citizen centred services developed on a who does what basis

**The Merthyr Tydfil Compact** together with the Commissioning Project Brief can be accessed on VAMT's website. **The Good Practice Review** will also be available soon.

Copies of the **Healthy Governance Toolkit** on CD can be obtained from the Health and Social Care Facilitators in Interlink or VAMT.

#### Inaugural Meeting of the Steering Group

It was decided at the first meeting of the multi agency steering group on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 to:

- Produce one funding code of practice for both boroughs
- Develop a framework that could encompass a range of approaches that satisfy the agreed principles
- Adopt the principles in the national Funding Code of Practice
- Make use of the IPC (Institute of Public Care) model of commissioning, which divides commissioning into four stages – Analyse, Plan, Secure Services and Monitor and Evaluate

Other issues discussed included the need to:

- Avoid duplication and to make links to other relevant initiatives such as the Value Wales Procurement Route Planner for social care
- Ensure fair involvement in planning processes
- Ensure that there is no conflict with current guidance and requirements.

The project officer will now go ahead and produce a draft Funding Code of Practice on the basis of the discussion that took place and agreements reached in time for the next steering group meeting in February 2010.

## Steering Group Members

Ian Davy	VAMT
Ann Philpott	Interlink
Margaret McLaughlin	VAMT/Interlink
Ian Benbow	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Carwyn Jones	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Chris Richards	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Jenny Ludlow	Cwm Taf LHB
Samia Saeed	Cwm Taf LHB
Neil Elliott	RCT CBC
Sarah Andrews(deputy)	RCT Framwaith
Vince Hanley	RCT CBC
Vince Price	Third Sector Procurement Champion in RCT

Third sector representatives from the Health and Social Care Forum in Merthyr Tydfil and the Framwaith Voluntary Organisations Forum in RCT have still to be identified.

### Value Added Facts Questionnaire

One of the issues to emerge from discussions held with public and third sector organisations is the difficulty of describing and quantifying the added value that third sector organisations bring to service delivery. In order to help to address this, a **Value Added Facts Questionnaire** has been produced, based on NAVCA's Sustaining Grants 2007. Local organisations are urged to complete this questionnaire to help with their own planning and marketing as well as assisting with funding applications. It would also be useful for this project to have an idea of the added value of local third sector organisations. So please do complete this ten-point questionnaire and send a copy to [Margaret.mclaughlin@vamt.net](mailto:Margaret.mclaughlin@vamt.net) The Value Added Facts Questionnaire can be found on VAMT's and Interlink's website.

### Find out more

Commissioning is a broad topic which encompasses a range of specialist areas

including service user involvement and engagement, measuring value and results based accountability, service tendering and procurement law. Below are just some of the relevant publications and websites:

### Funding Codes of Practice

- Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector in Wales 2009

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dsjlg/publications/com/090224volsecfunding092en.pdf>

It includes the principles that the Welsh Assembly Government applies to funding the third sector. The code applies to the NHS and includes an expectation "that local authorities will also adhere to the code."

### Procurement

- Procurement and the Voluntary Sector: guidance for the public sector in Wales 2008

<http://www.adjudicationpanelwales.org.uk/dpsp/publications/bettervalue/smarterpurchasing/openingdoors/thirdsectore.pdf>

It offers public sector procurers practical information and advice on working with supplier/ providers from the third sector.

- Procurement Route Planner for social care on [www.buy4wales.co.uk/PRP/index.html](http://www.buy4wales.co.uk/PRP/index.html)

It promotes best practice in procurement throughout the Welsh public sector with an easy to follow structure and standard procurement documents.

- Pathways Through the Maze A guide to procurement law 2009

<http://www.navca.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/FFE1ABE0-5C54-4F26-A4B4-8F30AA4801F6/0/pathways.pdf>

### The role of grants

- Defending local grants [www.navca.org.uk](http://www.navca.org.uk) Resources to help to convince councillors, commissioning and procurement officers of the **importance of grants**

- Why grants are important for a healthy local VCS NAVCA 2009 [www.navca.org.uk](http://www.navca.org.uk)

It explains the role of **grants** as a key part of the funding mix.

**To find out more** about the Commissioning Policy Development Project, contact:

Margaret McLaughlin, Project Officer on 01685 353920 [margaret.mclaughlin@vamt.net](mailto:margaret.mclaughlin@vamt.net)

To access further information about the project, see [www.vamt.net](http://www.vamt.net) and [www.interlinkrct.org.uk](http://www.interlinkrct.org.uk)