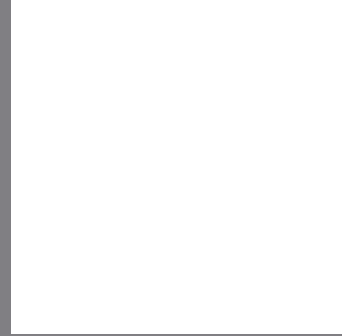


National Programme for
Third Sector Commissioning

I&DeA
improvement and development agency



National
Programme for
Third Sector
Commissioning



CabinetOffice
Office of the Third Sector



National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning

Working together with the third sector can help the public sector design, deliver and improve the delivery and efficiency of public services.

In 2007, the Office of the Third Sector (Cabinet Office) commissioned us at the Improvement and Development Agency to develop and deliver the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning. The programme was developed to help increase the public sector's awareness and skills in commissioning services from voluntary organisations, as well as increase the capacity of third sector organisations who wished to develop their skills in this area.

We were awarded the contract in May 2009 to deliver phase two of the programme and designed this new phase to be delivered by organisations best placed to do so, building on their 'day jobs' and thus making the best use of the funding.

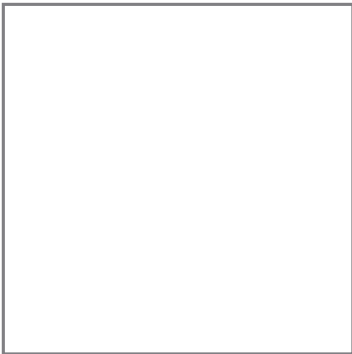
Working together with these expert delivery partners, who will provide a range of training courses and guidance, and supported by advisors from the NHS Institute, we aim to achieve:

- increased awareness and understanding of the value of third sector commissioning
- more third sector involvement throughout the commissioning cycle
- improved bidding practice from third sector organisations.

Increased awareness and understanding



Training in this area aims to increase the awareness and understanding of how utilising the third sector's specialist knowledge will benefit the delivery of public services.



The **Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)** will provide training courses that respond to the needs of finance officers and commissioners, such as how to develop policy into practice and ensuring that consultation and equality impact assessments are carried out appropriately.

London Councils will provide pilot training for elected members and non-executive directors of NHS primary care trusts in London, focusing on the opportunities for third sector agencies in delivering services and developing a model strategy and tools to support local commissioners.

The **SROI Network** will provide social return on investment (SROI) training for commissioners to help them identify and value potential outcomes from their commissioning, including those that the third sector could offer and those that service users want. Training will also help to improve the design of services and tenders.

More third sector involvement

Increasing the involvement of the third sector throughout the commissioning cycle will ensure that emerging needs are met and maximum efficiencies are realised.

The **Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR)** will provide a programme of training and workshops for commissioners and third sector organisations to develop new ways of working more closely together.

A portfolio of training offers has been developed with **Bath University**, **Birmingham University**, **Nottingham Trent University Business School**, **University of Central Lancashire** and **Warwick Business School**. Bursaries will be available to interested individuals who would otherwise not be able to attend the courses. A range of new providers will be identified during phase two.

Phase two will also see the launch of the e-learning tool developed by **National School of Government** in phase one. The free-to-use tool examines the process of commissioning and looks at ways in which partnerships can be used to best effect.



Improved bidding practice

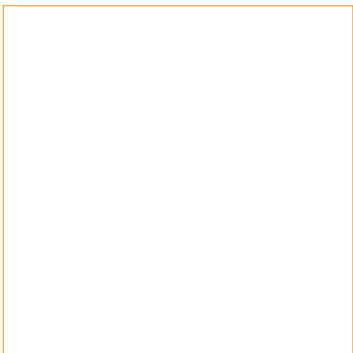


Training in this area provides a strong mix of support in improving the bidding practice of third sector organisations and supporting those that have previously not been able to access the bidding process.



The **Association of Chief Executives and Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO)** will facilitate workshops and provide intensive support for third sector organisations, such as one-day seminars on adapting to individual budgets or the 'personalisation agenda', and direct intensive support in bid writing.

British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres (Bassac) will provide support to groups of third sector organisations, with particular emphasis on developing better co-design practice and facilitating organisations of different size working together to build capacity and enable joint bidding.

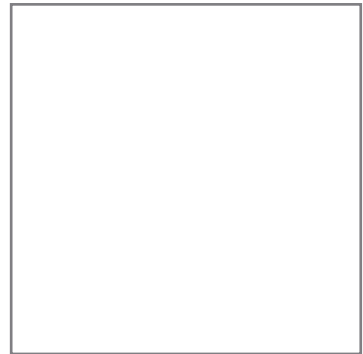


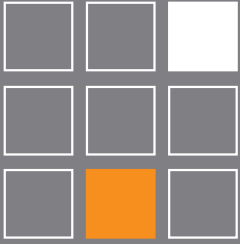
The **National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA)** will offer bespoke support to third sector organisations that are inexperienced in bidding for contracts and require more intensive support in bid writing.

The **Social Enterprise Coalition** will undertake research into stimulating new markets, developing training materials and a training module to support commissioners to put this into practice, including the establishment of new social enterprises.

Involving third sector organisations in the design and delivery of public services not only allows the public sector to benefit from specialist knowledge and increased efficiency, but it also provides an independence from existing structures and flexibility from institutional pressures.

To book your training or for more information on the training courses available, please visit www.idea.gov.uk/thirdsector or call Cheryl Flack, IDeA, on 020 7296 6199.





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Designed by Liberata Design Studio

L09-728