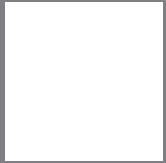


national programme for
third sector commissioning



Better public outcomes for individuals and communities, which yields efficiency gains and community benefits, through smarter, more effective and innovative commissioning, and optimal involvement of the third sector in public service design, improvement, delivery and holding the public sector to account is the vision of the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning.

To make that vision a reality you can help by embedding the eight principles of good commissioning:

- Understanding the needs of users and other communities by ensuring that, alongside other consultees, you engage with the third sector organisations, as advocates, to access their specialist knowledge;
- Consulting potential provider organisations, including those from the third sector and local experts, well in advance of commissioning new services, working with them to set priority outcomes for that service;
- Putting outcomes for users at the heart of the strategic planning process;
- Mapping the fullest practical range of providers with a view to understanding the contribution they could make to delivering those outcomes;
- Considering investing in the capacity of the provider base, particularly those working with hard-to-reach groups;
- Ensuring contracting processes are transparent and fair, facilitating the involvement of the broadest range of suppliers, including considering sub-contracting and consortia building, where appropriate;
- Ensuring long-term contracts and risk sharing, wherever appropriate, as ways of achieving efficiency and effectiveness; and
- Seeking feedback from service users, communities and providers in order to review the effectiveness of the commissioning process in meeting local needs.

To find out more about the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning visit: www.idea.gov.uk



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