

DSP Delivery Board
16th July 2010

Agenda item ? or matters arising from previous minutes

Improving Commissioning with the Third Sector

Recommendations:

- That the DSP Delivery Board notes progress with this national project and requests a further report on the outcomes of the work on its completion

Background

Delivery Board members will recall that, at the instigation of voluntary sector representatives, they endorsed a proposal that the DSP participates in a national, Government funded project which is aimed at improving the way in which public sector organisations work with the third sector in developing and commissioning services.

The IDeA has been commissioned to undertake the project, and a firm of consultants has the contract to deliver it. Devon is one of 8 areas taking part in the project, and is the only rural shire county in the programme.

Progress to date

An initial scoping meeting was held with the consultant on 21st June. It has been agreed that NHS Devon, Devon County Council's Adult and Community Services and Children and Young People's Directorates will participate, alongside third sector representatives.

The programme will comprise 3 facilitated workshops, to be held over the Autumn months with a consistent membership of about 20 people for each session. The only cost to participating organisations will be that of staff time.

The first session will be an opportunity to explore what already works well and the nature of relationships between the sectors at present. How much mutual understanding is there? What has been to context to date of relationship building and how influential has the Compact been in shaping that relationship? How do commissioners work with the third sector? Priority issues on which we need to work together will be explored, which will set the agenda for the second and third workshops.

The programme will aim to integrate with existing work and activities in Devon and will be a highly collaborative process, which will lead to an agreed action plan.

By the end of the programme it is anticipated that we may be in a position to begin the development of a joint third sector investment strategy.

It is early days, but those who attended the scoping meeting are optimistic that this will be a real opportunity to improve the way we work, and that the learning will be shared with partner agencies which are not participating.

Sue Craythorne
29th June 2010