

23/12/2010

Good afternoon

I have some responses to the Modernising Commissioning green paper:

Government must recognise that local solutions to meet local need should be the mantra. Commissioning services should by default look for local organisations (where fit for purpose) first. Two things inhibit this: payment by results will disproportionately disadvantage small organisations who do not have the capital to take on the risk of payments up to two years down the line. Secondly, European commission rules set the threshold for competitive tender too low. Flexibility should be introduced so that commissioning agencies like local authorities do not automatically reach for the open competitive tender tool when a more balanced approach to using existing organisation who can deliver much more local social capital would be more cost effective – both in terms of the costs of procurement and the value gained by supporting existing local civil society organisations.

In terms of support to local civil society organisations, commissioners should look to build on existing expertise eg in organisations like my own. Too often, local support organisations suffer when public sector budgets are cut. Local support and development organisations like CVS are vital to encouraging and supporting front line groups in their activities.

Regards

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