

# Modernising Commissioning Green Paper

## *Headline response from BHCC with input from CVSF*

### **1) In which public service areas could Government create new opportunities for civil society organisations to deliver?**

- services in all public service areas for the most marginalised, shaped around the person and holistic
- preventative / innovative services
- community based facilities
- Local examples could include **youth** services and **mental health** services, both being re-commissioned and wanting more civil society delivery. Both are constrained by commissioning and procurement strategies

### **2) How could Government make existing public service markets more accessible to civil society organisations?**

- Changing procurement processes and commissioning criteria to level the playing field. Barriers include lack of awareness of contract opportunities, PQQs excluding groups at the first stage, excessive contract sizes, transfer of disproportionate risks, TUPE, lack of full cost recovery
- payment by results presents huge cash flow issues for many groups and is sometimes made worse by changes being made to criteria for payments part way through contracts
- develop databases of potential providers, especially for services traditionally delivered in house or through a range of specialist consultants or contractors
- some relaxation of contractual specifications and obligations that deter civil society organisations and SMEs. Nb EU procurement rules involve significant resource investment from LA's, contracting bodies and local suppliers
- more inter local authority cooperation and sharing of resources

### **3) How could commissioners use assessments of full social, environmental and economic value to inform their commissioning decisions?**

- as a means of measuring the outcome focus in contracting
- by recognising a range of methodologies which can be used to measure impacts, not just SROI
- by supporting capacity building programmes so providers and commissioners can develop social impact knowledge and measures, including learning across public bodies and sectors. Nb Nb in Brighton & Hove we are fortunate to have a cross-sector partnership to advance social impact development including international expertise from our universities

### **4) How could civil society organisations support greater citizen and community involvement in all stages of commissioning?**

- by engaging in / supporting users to be involved in processes around needs assessment / outcomes design and the challenge of these
- putting themselves forward to co-design and co-produce services when opportunities arise