

Please find attached our comments on the Modernising Commissioning Green Paper.

I also set out below additional comments from our Development Manager - Children, Young People & Families' Services.

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

In terms of Children, Young People and Families' Services the voluntary and community sector could deliver services in most areas and could provide new ways of meeting identified outcomes which could change some current models of service delivery.

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

By running 'Market Facilitation/Consultation' sessions with a range of potential providers to look at the delivery of services/outcomes/service specifications and funding. Keeping the potential market involved in the whole commissioning process will provide opportunities for both central and local government to extend the reach and expertise of providers and to learn from different frontline delivery organisations whether voluntary and community, social enterprise, community interest or mutuals/cooperatives. By reducing the amount of red tape and making information about the potential opportunities more widely available.

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

These assessments are essential in order to ensure that the decision to commission a service isn't just based on financial considerations and that, in future, all services are being provided by a supplier because of the social, environmental and economic rationale of the service and not just because it's cheaper. Voluntary and community sector organisations have to cover their full costs which may make them seem more expensive at times but, by taking into account the social and environmental factors too this may often offset those slightly higher costs.

4. How could civil society organisations support greater citizen and community involvement in all stages of the commissioning?

By involving service users and potential service providers – private, independent and voluntary and community – in market and service specification consultations as part of the commissioning process. The active and meaningful involvement of service users is essential to the effective evaluation and development of future service delivery. The London Borough of Sutton's Disability Partnership for Children, Young People and Families has done this over the past couple of years and it is a model of good practice. Further details can be supplied.

We look forward to receiving the Government's response to the consultation.

Susanna

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