

Invitation to a regional information and networking event and funding opportunity to support the development of Social Enterprise consortia

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) recently announced a new funding opportunity to help small and medium sized social enterprises participate in delivering services within the criminal justice sector. The aim is to create a diverse supply chain which includes social enterprise, voluntary, community-sector, private and statutory organisations which has the capacity to participate in future procurement opportunities within the sector. The funding opportunity is not at this stage aimed at delivery; rather it is aimed at assisting organisations to develop consortia of sufficient scale to allow them to compete for future business. The focus of the consortia should be to develop a model that potentially could deliver resettlement services for offenders, thus increasing their ability to access mainstream education, training and employment provision.

Events to disseminate further information and support partnership-building will now be held across the country. The same content will be delivered at all events which will run from 9.30am – 4.00pm and will include presentations from NOMS, the Prime Provider currently holding the main delivery focused contract within each Region and a guest speaker focusing consortia building. To this end, there will also be ample opportunity to network with other organisations.

To help facilitate and focus this opportunity we are asking you to include a brief pen picture with your booking request which will be circulated to all attendees once your place has been confirmed. We have enclosed a single page template with four questions and an example of a completed pen picture. We are asking for minimal information and confirmation of your contact details so that additional information can be sought if necessary.

There will be networking opportunities at registration and over lunch. In addition there will be 'speed dating' sessions to allow providers to match with organisations that could complement their skills set and area of expertise, initially with other attendees which have been matched to you based on your pen picture and then a free speed session where you will be free to network further with contacts of your choice. If you would like to attend one of these free events you will need to book a place. To do this please indicate on the form below, your choice of location by placing an X in the relevant box. Once you have completed the location choice and your pen picture please return the details to CFO-socialenterprise@noms.gsi.gov.uk clearly stating your name and that of your organisation to book your place.

NB. Please ignore any previous correspondence you have received in relation to the dates of these events.

For your information the timescales for this opportunity are:

- Regional Events held April to May 2012
- Request for Proposal (RfP) deadline June 2012
- Followed by short listing; technical support; 2 way dialogue
- Final RfP and evaluation deadline October 2012
- Results published November 2012
- Grant agreement period will be from November 2012 to October 2014

Funding available is:

- Lot 1: National up to £250k (1 grant available)
- Lot 2: Regional up to £150k (2 grants available)
- Lot 3: Local up to £50k (8 grants available)
- Lot 4: SW including Cornwall up to £100k (2 grants available)
- Lot 5: SW including Cornwall up to £50k (2 grants available)

It is important to note that the funding is not designed to cover the cost of large scale delivery and is not a contract opportunity aimed at individual organisations; it is intended to help organisations work together, capacity build and raise finance in order to prepare for current and future tendering opportunities.

We hope you take up this opportunity to attend this free information and networking event and look forward to seeing you there

Kind regards,

The National Offenders Management Service (NOMS)