



PEN PICTURE TEMPLATE

Please complete and return to CFO-socialenterprise@noms.gsi.gov.uk

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Name of consortium:	<u>Contracts Matter</u>		

Background

Please tell us why your proposed consortium came together and when you plan to be operational:

100 word limit

The Contracts Matter consortium has grown from the 'Contracts Matter' Employability and Skills hub hosted by Acumen which is now in its fifth year, and brings together VCSE organisations to bid collaboratively for contracts. The majority of members are therefore known to each other, and many have experience of working together, but until now had not considered forming a consortium.

Through a planned process of assessing and addressing both individual and collective needs, the consortium aims to form an SPV and be operational from January 2014.

Objective

What does your consortium aim to achieve and deliver when it is operational?

What stakeholder groups will benefit from your consortium's offer?

100 word limit

Contracts Matter will be an inclusive and flexible consortium that fundamentally improves the capacity and quality of the VCSE sector in the Northeast. It aims to develop a strong contracting vehicle to allow social enterprises and SMEs to participate in CFO and other programmes, and provides a social enterprise option with the capability to deliver high quality resettlement focused services.

Benefiting stakeholder groups include; social enterprises benefitting from increased trade, existing Primes benefitting from a more diverse supply chain, and other commissioners seeking specialist VCSE consortium expertise in working with excluded individuals.



Partners

What areas do your consortium partners cover?
100 word limit

Contracts Matter members are drawn from the public/statutory, VCSE and private sectors. They offer employment and skills support covering information, advice and guidance, mentoring accredited and non-accredited training. They provide volunteering and work placement opportunities, and support to offenders in setting up social enterprises.

Members also have experience to benefit offenders across all other pathways. Services include provision of temporary accommodation, rent deposit guarantees, bespoke training; in well-being, sexual health, smoking cessation, alcohol awareness; debt and financial management; mediation and counselling for children and families; and accredited training in self-resilience. In summary services span all pathways, responding to the reducing reoffending needs of offenders and supporting the statutory agencies.