



PEN PICTURE TEMPLATE

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

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Name of consortium:	<u>VOLA Learning Consortium</u>		<u>www.volamerseyside.org.uk</u>

Background	<p>Please tell us why your proposed consortium came together and when you plan to be operational:</p> <p>In existence/operational in its current unincorporated form for approaching 6 years, VOLA Learning Consortium formed in response to the growing need for an effective contracting vehicle to capitalise on the potential of Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector to contribute to the Learning and Skills agenda.</p> <p>Building on successes to date, we have identified great potential to diversify/ contribute to reduction of re-offending in Liverpool City Region and we need to develop into a standalone legal entity to survive/ flourish in the longer-term.</p> <p>We plan to incorporate as a new legal entity by Sept-13 and fully operational by March-14.</p>
Objective	<p>What does your consortium aim to achieve and deliver when it is operational?</p> <p>What stakeholder groups will benefit from your consortium's offer?</p> <p>We aim to offer an alternative, cost-effective route to harness the diverse, potential contribution of the VCSE Sector to reduction of re-offending.</p> <p>Skills development, improved employability and sustainable employment for offenders, young and old, are at the heart of our model.</p> <p>We will offer a wide range of individually tailored engagement, coaching, mentoring, training, employability and enterprise services, volunteering, work placements and employment in real trading environments (Social Enterprises & SMEs) – supported by specialist interventions covering all reducing re-offending pathways. Our broad consortium offers specialist support to specific groups e.g. women, substance misusers, young people at risk of offending, etc.</p>
Partners	<p>What areas do your consortium partners cover?</p> <p>Our consortium includes VCSE sector organisations that already work in, or have potential to work in the Criminal Justice system and increases their potential to deliver services to</p>



offenders across Liverpool City Region.

Our membership offers a range of specialist services to specific groups/ geographical communities spanning all re-offending pathways, with skills and employment at its heart, including.

- IAG
- Training (foundation/functional skills to Level 3/4)
- Volunteering and work experience
- Apprenticeships and employment opportunities across key local sectors
- Business start up/ enterprise support
- Barrier removal agencies/ specialist service providers (e.g. health, housing, substance misuse, finance)