

Closer Links Briefing

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Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

- Context (LSIS Regional Response Fund - Ducks in a Row and Closer Links)
- Types of Contracting
- The “live” opportunity
- Compliance
- Support available
- CPD and Work-shadowing
- Questions

LSIS: Regional Response Fund

“The Regional Response fund was designed to support activities that allow organisations to deal collectively with the business, funding and planning implications of the changes to funding allocations as a result of current government policy; [New Challenges and New Chances](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk)”

The theme of the **Closer Links** project is also strategically aligned to **LSIS: Focus on improvement 2012-15**

Priority 3.3 Building capacity within the sector to tackle emerging challenges through peer review and development, collaboration, partnerships and professional dialogues.

ducks in a row

ducks in a row *idiom*:
meaning to ensure all
of the small details or
elements are
accounted for and in
their proper positions
before embarking on
a new project or
collaboration.



Recommendations:

- The use of...policy briefings for the sharing of information on policies and organisational changes... For example those which impact on funding, contract arrangements, delivery and partnership agreements. [Closer Links Activity Strand 1]
- Use of a system which enables [*dialogue for*] collaborative bid writing [Closer Links Activity Strand 1]
- VCS organisations mobilised to identify what they can offer in terms of expertise and skills; with improved marketing of the VCS offer so colleges have a better understanding of what is available [Closer Links Activity Strand 2]
- Cross sector work shadowing opportunities to help build stronger partnerships [Closer Links Activity Strand 3]

Types of Contracts

Framework	Sub-contracting	Bidding
<p>Potential subcontractors successfully pass generic PQQ requirements of Prime.</p> <p>Only subcontractors that pass the generic PQQ will be invited to compete for future tenders.</p> <p>Subject to OJEU</p>	<p>Specific opportunity identified and delivery provider(s) sought.</p> <p>Wider and lengthier procurement process than Framework.</p> <p>Subject to OJEU</p>	<p>Direct relationship with funder and or Prime for a specific opportunity.</p> <p>Sub-contractor(s) named within the original bid submission and agreed with the funder as part of the bidding process.</p> <p>May be Subject to OJEU</p>

All funders are looking for providers who have demonstrated the capacity to deliver innovative, quality provision to high standards and are able to bring fresh approaches

The “live” opportunity

Delivery of education, training and related support services eligible for funding under the New College Stamford contracts with the external funders and commercial partners

Pre-Qualification Questionnaire

2013-2016

Restricted ITT

Due Diligence

Opportunity for collaboration – joint responses?

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/fe>

<http://www.stamford.ac.uk>

Compliance: Skills Funding Agency, Education Funding Agency and European Social Fund Contracts

To receive funding as a Subcontractor from the Prime [SFA, EFA or ESF] all providers must:

Successfully complete the Due Diligence Assurance Gateway and enter the Register of Training Organisations (the Register) Prime and if subcontractors total funding is £100,000 and above

Register on the UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP) and hold a valid UKPRN – input via College ILR to provide visibility of activity to EFA/SFA

Not have an above average credit agency risk warning and not have passed a resolution to wind up or liquidate and be marked as “active” at Companies House and be up to date with the submission of their statutory accounts

Have evidence of their track record of delivering provision to the required quality and standard – minimum performance levels

Prove that they are financially robust and able to share some of the financial risk at all levels e.g. linked directly to outcome payments

Have robust quality assurance and self assessment procedures in place and are able to meet due diligence requirements

Support Available

Following this event:

- mini compliance health check clinic
- guidance to help address any issues identified in the clinic.

- Third Sector Infrastructure Support Organisations
- www.fanooogle.org.uk to search for funding consultants
**Fanoogle is a signposting service to help groups find funding advice*

- LSIS excellence gateway: **Toolkit 5 - Sub-contracting**
<http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/node/2945>

- **Closer Links** on the One East Midlands website
<http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/closerlinks>

Activity Strand 2 : CPD

Continuing Professional Development

for VCS/Third Sector organisations & regional F.E. colleges:

- open up and share generic (i.e. non organisationally specific) sessions which would be mutually beneficial to staff from both sectors.
- VCS/Third Sector Organisations are also being invited to put forward a menu of specialist/niche CPD training they would be able to offer to colleges*

* If you would like to be involved I will need the following information from you:

- what specialist/niche CPD type training opportunities you feel your organisation could offer a college.
- the duration and cost of the training.
- who the training would be aimed at (tutors/support staff).
- any prior level of knowledge required.
- The geographical locations you are able to deliver training

Activity Strand 3: Work shadow Knowledge Exchange

As CPD covers all sorts of activities in addition to training; Activity Strand 3 will use a work shadow knowledge exchange to build stronger Partnerships

I'm interested in taking part...what happens next?

Staff interested in taking part as **shadows** should complete the relevant form in the pack and return it to me – it's as simple as that!

Please email the information to jaynequantrill@one-em.org.uk

Or by post to Jayne Quantrill, Closer Links Development Officer,
One East Midlands, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, 7 Mansfield Road,
Nottingham, NG1 3FB



Questions