

## **European Structural and Investment Funds (Building Better Opportunities)**

### **Joint Statement by the Social Inclusion Consortium and People First D2N2**

Members of the Social Inclusion Consortium and People First D2N2 met each other on Tuesday 9th June 2015. They discussed the role of voluntary and community sector organisations in the delivery of Thematic Objective Nine (Building Better Opportunities) in the current round of European funding. A call has now been made to bid for the following strands:

- Multiple and complex needs
- Towards work
- Financial inclusion

It was agreed that the voluntary and community sector has an important role to play in Building Better Opportunities (BBO) not least in Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The vision, expertise and diversity of organisations serving these localities affords the capacity to make strong offers to the Big Lottery Fund, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Local and Central Government and the European Union in all three strands.

Discussion focused on how best to marshal and present this offer. The proposal for a single third sector bid for each of the three strands has some attractions but also some drawbacks. After careful consideration all those present agreed that any advantages that might accrue from bringing together two distinctive models in a single composite one are outweighed by the disadvantages. At this stage the practicalities of trying to achieve this would distract the two consortia from the immediate tasks of detailed project planning and bid submission. It would also reduce the choices available to the commissioners in considering how TO9 can best be delivered.

In summary, there is nothing about the ethos or objectives of charities and not-for-profit bodies that should prevent them from competing openly and honestly with each other. What matters more is an enduring commitment to work together and with others, beyond the horizons of a particular programme and whatever its outcome. Our two consortia have reaffirmed their willingness to do this in the interests of people and communities across the D2N2 area. In the meantime we will proceed with the development of our proposals for BBO, the negotiation of our partnerships and the preparation of our respective bids.

This is an exciting but challenging time. We expect it to culminate in positive outcomes for people who experience poverty and social exclusion. Our hope is that by meeting to discuss the options as we have done, and communicating what was decided, the process leading to these outcomes will be facilitated. This will help to strengthen the structures and relationships that will be needed for successful delivery after the bidding and selection process has concluded.

The Social Inclusion Consortium  
The People First D2N2 Consortium

12th June 2015