

# North West Third Sector SPV Ltd-

Not an imaginative title, but it does what it says on the tin.

# The Beginnings

- Discussion started April 2009 emanating from the North West VCS Learning and Skills Network.
- Evidence emerging that organisations including DWP and the then LSC would be tendering for increasingly large contracts, beyond the reach of local or sub regional organisations .
- A need for a region wide, independent, Third Sector based organisation, built on Third Sector values to be set up to enable these contracts to be obtained , managed and delivered by Third Sector organisations .

# Setting up

- The SPV was incorporated on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010
- The founding partners were:
  - Voluntary Sector North West
  - North West Network
  - Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation
  - Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington
  - Merseyside Network for Europe
  - Cumbria CVS
  - VOLA Merseyside
  - Manchester Learning Skills and Employment Network
  - North West e-net (now defunct)
  - Lancashire Learning Consortium

# Vision

By building on the good practice and experiences of our sub-regional partners, develop an independent North West Regional Consortium that is effective, efficient, quality assured and able to compete for and deliver contracts and commissions on an equal basis with the public and private sector and in consequence provide effective and appropriate training for disadvantaged communities at a local level.

# Aims and Objectives

- Demonstrate sufficient combined strength of financial stability and management expertise to obtain large contracts.
- Identify suitable contracts for delivery by the SPV.
- Create a skilled and experienced Board of Directors who will pragmatically develop and maintain the SPV.
- To achieve Prime Contractor status with DWP, SFA and other organisations.
- Recruit and develop an executive team to ensure that the SPV obtains appropriate delivery contracts and fulfils all requirements.
- Using economies of scale and a not dividend distributing business model ensure fair sub contracts and sustainable delivery agreements for partner organisations.
- Develop a common standard of quality for the SPV in direct relationship to the Common Inspection Framework and Framework for Excellence models.
- Recruit a critical mass of Delivery Partner organisations to ensure optimum delivery of contracts.
- Delivery partner status will potentially be available to any Third Sector learning, skills and/or employment provider based within the North West of England, providing it can meet our quality policy. Consideration will be given to the inclusion of non Third Sector providers according to business need.
- The SPV will positively co-ordinate, support and utilise smaller local delivery organisations, brokering partnerships where necessary.
- Engage employers throughout the region to provide sustainable, local employment to participants.

# Where we are now

- 51 delivery partners across the region
- DWP Work Programme contracts were larger and fewer in number than we had hoped. We are therefore working with 2 chosen potential prime contractors to secure delivery opportunities for our members.
- The SPV has submitted an application to be included on the Skills Funding Agency's ACTOR register of approved providers to obtain contracts and support member organisations to group together to meet the new Minimum Contract Levels.
- Applications have been submitted to LSIS to capacity build both the SPV infrastructure and partner organisations, enabling members to develop their own sustainability and quality of provision as well as that of the SPV.

# How to get involved

- Application process.
- For more details and an application form contact:

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