



# Supporting a strong VCS market in Tameside

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# Aim

Joint action to increase the sectors confidence to tender and develop the market to meet commissioners requirements.

VCS engagement commissioning action group established to formalise our work and commitment.

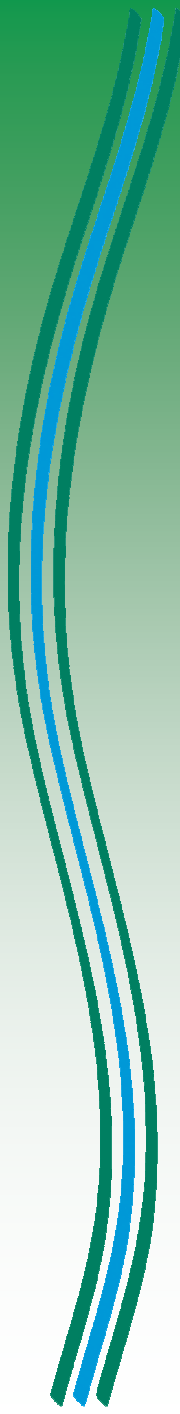
# Action Group

- Established January 08.
- **Partners:** Supporting People, Children and Young People, POPPS, PCT, Corporate Procurement, Joint Commissioning Adult Services and T3SC.
- Used learning from T3SC needs analysis and Joint Scrutiny Report.
- Joint Commissioning & Performance Management Business Plan and activities.
- Agreed priorities, terms of reference and draft joint action plan.

# Action Plan Themes

1. Develop a local environment where third sector organisations are confident of the process to tender for contracts and opt out only through choice.

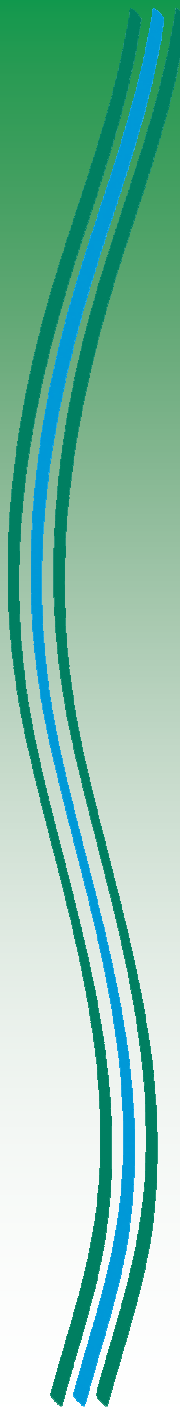
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2. Ensure all procurement documents are fit for purpose, user friendly and satisfy public authority Procurement Standing Orders.

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3. Raise awareness with commissioners about the value that local third sector to public service delivery.

Embed learning and good practice with commissioners across different directorates and public agencies.



4. Champion and support outcomes focussed commissioning.

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5. Develop clear communication channels and timely dialogue with the sector about commissioning strategies, timescales, services and expectations and outcomes.

Work with the sector to promote emerging opportunities for the sector to respond to.



6. Work with commissioners to help them create fair ways of identifying providers for smaller funded services.

# Success to date

- 4 learning sessions delivered to 17 organisations by Joint Commissioning Team to increase competitiveness of the sector.
- T3SC and VCO's reviewed commissioners on slim-line OC.
- T3SC working with 6 organisations to help get ready to tender
- Secured continuation funding for part time post within T3SC to develop over next 12 months.

# Activities to come

## Short term

- Legal and technical issues training -23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- T3SC producing Toolkit with practical guidance
- Centralising information and making access easier.
- Presentations to wide range of commissioners about added value of third sector delivery.
- Funding and Commissioning Code of Practice.

# More Activities

## Medium term

- Working with the sector to prepare for the personalisation agenda.
- T3SC exploring partnership and collaboration with Supporting People Providers.
- More learning sessions for the sector delivered by range of commissioners.

# What next

- Round table discussions to discuss what further support or practical action is needed.
- Strong commitment shown by key partners.
- Exciting time to start leading the way to develop a strong VCS market in Tameside.