



So what's working?

There are some excellent individual working relationships between certain Commissioners and certain voluntary organisations.

Commissioners appear more interested in what the voluntary sector has to offer.

The voluntary sector as a whole is feeling more confident and vibrant, and more willing and able to participate in partnerships.

The collective impact of the voluntary sector in Cambridgeshire is improving, and organisations are getting better at reporting outcomes and highlighting added value.

Where are the gaps?

Regular Provider Forums (perhaps 6 monthly) which do not currently exist or are not working effectively.

More consideration of local need is required within the Commissioning process.

Some form of consistent method for reporting outcomes across contracts.

Setting consistent KPI's relevant to contract size.

Better relationship building between all parties.

Understanding each other's Governance processes.

Longer notice of approaching tenders which enables the voluntary sector to form Collective Partnerships (Perhaps through a web - portal or similar).

Forward plans or engagement events?

Shared understanding?

There appears to be a lack of clarity amongst both the voluntary sector and Commissioners about when to collaborate and when to specialise?

Provide training on how to tender and what to expect.

No long term security on funding.

Contracts are often too large for smaller organisations, with larger organisations often destabilising the status quo.

Tenders need to be evaluated on quality and not price, with more regard being paid to social value.

Commissioners need to recognise the power of local organisations.

A template for feedback needs to be designed so that in the event of being unsuccessful organisations can learn and improve.

Regular update on what organisations should be doing to prepare for tenders.

Creating relationships – Commissioners can learn more at direct service level and can be more intuitive as a result?

Something new or different?

Breaking silos across sectors.

Commissioners collate outcomes across contracts to develop a county-wide picture on Commissioning.

Examine how Commissioning outcomes can facilitate collaboration in the voluntary sector.

What happens next?

Develop a two-way communication process between Commissioners and the sector.

Consider if South and North forums are required as separate entities?

A challenge for the voluntary sector – how do we achieve real CEO buy-in so that more organisations attend these debates?

A challenge for Commissioners – How can they help in achieving more buy-in from voluntary sector CEO'S?

What is the Commissioning ask for the voluntary sector?

Set up and establish a project plan for action – is this something Support Cambridgeshire can do?