

Commissioning Specification

1 Introduction and context

The Oldham Partnership has established the Community Engagement Commissioning Group. It is responsible for the implementation of the Community Engagement Strategy and promotion of the awareness of the objectives of the Community Engagement and Community Cohesion Strategies (drafts) of the Oldham Partnership. Its role is to direct all cohesion, engagement and cultural activity and to consider the approval and implementation of work commissioned under Oldham's Local Area Agreement, (LAA)

Oldham Partnership, by deployment of Neighbourhood Renewal Funds (NRF) invested through the Community Engagement Commissioning Group, must achieve measurable performance against the Local Area Agreement's indicators.

The Partnership is currently seeking to develop the scope and amount of volunteering, amongst other activities, in Oldham, to address identified LAA outcomes, (see Appendix A).

Accordingly, **Expressions of Interest** are invited for delivery of the following:

Oldham Volunteering Development

This work will be divided into 3 parts:

1. Reviews of:
 - a. volunteering activity in Oldham
 - b. the infrastructure in Oldham that supports volunteering and volunteers.
2. Identification of ways to increase volunteering across Oldham especially in identified areas and amongst groups, where the level of activity needs to be brought up to a level commensurate with the Borough's LAA baseline at least, (*Safer Stronger Communities Block Outcome D*), and formulation of practical proposals to implement these findings.
3. The undertaking of activity to carry out the proposals formulated in Part 2, once they have been approved by the Community Engagement Commissioning Group. This work may also incorporate additional areas of activity agreed by the Community Engagement Commissioning Group

N.B. Part 3 of the work will not be commissioned, until the proposals emanating from Part 2 have been approved by the Community Engagement Commissioning Group.

(However, potential Delivery Agents, in their Expressions of Interest, are encouraged to record their interest in undertaking Part 3 of the work and to estimate the costs involved).

Parts One and Two of the work must be completed by 30th September 2007

Oldham Partnership needs to achieve measurable performance against the LAA's indicators through activity and initiatives funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF). The Partnership is keen to develop the scope and amount of volunteering, amongst other activities, in Oldham, to address identified LAA outcomes, and various objectives detailed in the Community Cohesion Strategy, ((See Appendices A and B).

The Partnership has a maximum of £75,000 to invest in this financial year and seeks well thought out proposals from potential delivery agents showing how this money can be used to secure the maximum increase in volunteering especially in areas targeted because of low current levels of activity.

The primary aim of the work is to increase the amount of volunteering in Oldham in all areas of activity and especially:

- Within Oldham's communities of place and interest, where there is no precedence or little tradition of volunteering, compared to the most active communities
- Within demographically defined sections of Oldham's communities, where volunteering rates are low, or volunteering is absent, compared with the most active communities
- Volunteering activity that directly promotes or involves community cohesion, particularly where there may have been tensions between different communities or sections of the community

Additionally, the Oldham Partnership is keen to promote:

- volunteering that will contribute to the development of social enterprise and the delivery of local services
- volunteering that entails accredited training, particularly where it develops individuals in preparation for the jobs market or provides directly transferable skills training that make individuals more competitive in the jobs market.

The purpose of the work is to enable the Partnership to promote increased volunteering in a practical, measurable way, which is socially cohesive, inclusive and equitable.

The development of volunteering in Oldham is very important to the Oldham Partnership in two ways, as part of:

- its community cohesion agenda and its delivery
- its localism agenda and its delivery.¹

¹ See the Oldham Partnership website for more details: www.oldhampartnership.org.uk

In developing these agendas the Oldham Partnership has embarked on a wide-ranging programme of activity.

In support of this programme the Community Engagement Commissioning Group is now commissioning a number of activities and specific works needed to meet the relevant Local Area Agreement, (LAA) objectives and to contribute to the delivery of the Community Engagement Strategy. This particular commissioned activity forms part of the programme.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted on the template provided and addressed as below to arrive no later than: **4.00 p.m. on Friday 1st June 2007**

Private and Confidential
(Ref: CEVolDevpt)
Jo Charlan
OMBC
Room 312
Level 3 Civic Centre
West St
Oldham
OL1 1XL

2. Programme Specification

Elements of the Activity to be Commissioned	Oldham Volunteering Development
<p>Part 1</p> <p>Review and analysis of:</p> <p>a. volunteering activity in Oldham</p> <p>b. the infrastructure in Oldham that supports volunteering and volunteers</p>	<p>The analyses and reviews required are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a. a review and analysis of current volunteering activity in Oldham, which will allow the Oldham Partnership to identify those sections of the community where volunteering needs to be most promoted (where there are lower rates of volunteering compared to Oldham / the NW in general), referring specifically to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sections of the community defined by gender, age, ethnicity, faith allegiance and other demographic features ○ sections of the community defined by place and interest, that is geographical areas or neighbourhoods and activity such as residents associations, sport, arts and other activities • b. a review and analysis of the current infrastructure for volunteer support. This review and analysis should also address the potential need for new activity to meet the new levels of volunteering and should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A qualitative and quantitative assessment of the current provision of volunteer development, training and support in the current network. ○ An assessment of the experience of agencies using volunteers to identify barriers to volunteering and perceived and unmet needs in volunteer development and support in Oldham. ○ An analysis of Oldham's future needs for an expanded volunteer base requiring a strengthened voluntary sector, especially serving sections of Oldham's communities of interest and place not currently actively volunteering. The Oldham Partnership is commissioning mapping work identifying community based community organisations and agencies working in and with communities, which will be available in September 2007 (current projection). <p>These reviews and analyses are needed by the Oldham Partnership to serve as a baseline from which to develop future volunteering support and to monitor changes in volunteering activity year on year. Gaps in the data available need to be identified and proposals for its future collection need to be made.</p>

<p>Part 2</p> <p>Identification of ways to increase volunteering across Oldham and the formulation of practical proposals to implement these findings</p>	<p>The Oldham Partnership is not specifying how it expects volunteering to be increased.</p> <p>Potential delivery agents will be required to identify ways of increasing volunteering activity across Oldham especially in identified areas and amongst groups, where the level of activity needs to be brought up to a level commensurate with the Borough's LAA baseline at least, (<i>Safer Stronger Communities Block Outcome D</i>).</p> <p>In addition, having identified these methods of increasing volunteering activity, potential delivery agents will be required to formulate and cost robust, practical proposals to implement the identified methods.</p>
<p>Part 3</p> <p>The undertaking of activity to carry out the proposals emanating from Part 2 of the work</p> <p>N.B. Part 3 of the work will not be commissioned, until the proposals emanating from Part 2 have been approved by the Community Engagement Commissioning Group.</p>	<p>At this stage, the nature of these initiatives and the areas in which they take place cannot be specified. They will arise from proposals emanating from Part Two of the work and will only be commissioned at a later date, once those proposals have been approved by the Community Engagement Commissioning Group.</p>
<p>Partnership Working</p>	<p>The successful Delivery Agent(s) will be expected to cooperate and collaborate, where appropriate, with other Delivery Agents undertaking activity commissioned on behalf of the Oldham Partnership</p>
<p>Duration of programme</p>	<p>Parts One and Two of the Commissioned Activity to be completed between 1st June 2007 and 30th September 2007. Part 3 of the Commissioned Activity will be commissioned at a later date but must be completed before 31st March 2008</p>
<p>Expressions of Interest</p>	<p>Potential Delivery Agents are invited to submit Expressions of Interest detailing which element(s), <i>Parts 1, 2, 3</i> of the work they would be interested in undertaking.</p>

Funding available	Up to £75,000 is available to cover the costs of the three elements of the activity to be commissioned. Potential Delivery Agents, in their Expressions of Interest will be required to submit estimates of the costs for each individual element. (Value for money will be taken into account during the assessment of Expressions of Interest received)
Intellectual Property Rights	The intellectual property rights of material, associated information and all reports resulting from this Commissioned Activity will belong to the Oldham Partnership.

APPENDIX A

The Community Engagement Commissioning Group is responsible for ensuring that commissioned activity is targeted on specific outcomes and associated indicators in the Oldham LAA. Whilst the commissioned activity proposed here may have some impact on many of the LAA outcomes the Community Engagement Commissioning Group has identified the following LAA outcomes and indicators as the primary targets for the activities described.

Outcomes	Indicators
Safer Stronger Communities	
A – To promote culture and cohesion	Number of adults (aged 16 and above) who participate in performing and visual arts activity across Oldham
	The total number of adults (aged 16 and above) from BME groups who participate in performing and visual arts activity across Oldham
D – To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services	Number of people engaging in (defined) volunteering activity
	Number of contractual opportunities offered to the voluntary and community sector through Oldham Partnership Commissioning Process
Safer Stronger Communities (Housing)	
C – To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services	<p>Tenant satisfaction with decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenant satisfaction with decision making <p>Satisfaction of all tenants of council housing with the opportunities for participation in management and decision making in relation to services provided by their landlord</p> <p>Satisfaction of all Registered Social Landlord tenants</p>
E – A more cohesive and integrated community	<p>Engagement</p> <p>Representation of tenants and residents associations both FCHO and RSL) are reflective of the community that they serve</p>
Healthier Communities and Older People	
B – Integrated services to support independence and improved engagement of older people as active citizens	2b) Number of people 50+ who undertake a supportive community role e.g. volunteers engaging in Health and Social Care activities
	2c) Empowering of older people to make a positive contribution to the planning, commissioning and delivery of services.
Children and Young People	
D - Young people play a positive role in the community	The percentage of young people aged 13-19 from differing cultures participating in organised activities
	Number of children and young people engaged in community cohesion activities for at least 2 hours per week in term time through "Unity in the Community"

Appendix B

Oldham Community Cohesion Strategy 2007-2010	
ENGAGEMENT	
PEOPLE ENGAGE WITH EACH OTHER	PEOPLE ENGAGE WITH ORGANISATIONS
Outcome D: People relate to each other	Outcome E: People play their part
Objectives	Objectives
D1 Create a range of opportunities for positive interaction between people from different social, ethnic, cultural and faith backgrounds.	E1 Influence the influence of local people in decision-making.
D2 Strengthen relationships between younger and older people.	E2 Develop skills and experience among people from groups which are under-represented in leadership, and particularly support the development of young people with leadership potential
D3 Help develop social networks and provision of practical support for people moving into communities where there is a risk that they will be isolated or feel unwelcome.	E3 Build the capacity of the voluntary, community and faith groups to contribute to work to build community cohesion.
	E4 Engage the widest possible range of organisations, including businesses, in work to build community cohesion.
	E5 Ensure employees at all levels in organisations play their part in building cohesion and that their employers support them in doing so.
	E6 Develop a wide range of opportunities which encourage the involvement of people in voluntary activity to improve the quality of life in the borough