

Briefing for Partner members of the Health & Wellbeing Network (Better Health Network)

Vision

To improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by bringing together charities, social enterprises, communities, local authorities and NHS Trusts and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the charitable and community sector.

Consortium Model and Operating Structure

The joint venture will be organised as a formal consortium that will be collectively owned by its members.

It will be established as a separate legal body with the provider organisations taking up membership of this body. The defining features of this model are as follows:

- Member organisations comprise (by clear majority) the consortium's governing body, alongside representation from key external stakeholders & independent perspectives.
- The consortium creates a single funding portal/point of contracting (i.e. the local authority and other commissioning bodies/funders commission/contract with the new legal entity which will be responsible for setting up and managing sub-contracts/SLA's with individual consortium members)
- It operates through a hub and spokes structure (the hub being the central infrastructure that acts as the executive engine of the consortium, including negotiating and sub-letting contracts [accountable to the Board and wider membership], and the spokes being the various individual providers/member organisations [both full and associate]).

Legal Structure and Governance Arrangements

The consortium will be structured as a company limited by guarantee with registered charitable status (i.e. charitable company). This was deemed to be fit for purpose for consortium-working and capable of offering a number of advantages, not least that it minimises risk through the guarantee facility at the same time as strengthening mutualism and co-operation through the fiduciary responsibilities implicit in charity law.

Benefits of Consortium Membership and Associated Expectations

There are a number of general benefits that the consortium will generate for its member organisations. These fall under the following headings:

1. Quality Improvement
2. Negotiating Power and Funding Prospects
3. Image and Profile
4. Resource Use
5. Strategic Capability

Expectations include:

- Interest in, support for, and promotion of the development and furtherance of the consortium as a whole and not merely the respective agendas or vested interests of certain member organisations
- Inputting ideas/information into & providing support for, joint tenders & applications
- Adhering consistently to the values of the consortium