**Factsheet Eight**

**Consortium**

**VCS led model**

**Joint venture consortia: Here2Help**

**Background**

Here2Help (H2H) is a recent response to both the threats and opportunities for the VCS of cuts in public funding. It wanted to work with Coventry City Council to develop new ways of commissioning and delivering frontline services especially ones that could deliver better services and value for money: the co-design of services; more outcome-focused commissioning; better understanding of additional public value from VCS delivery. In short. H2H will not run services as such but will be the lead contractor and “pipeline‟ whereby local authority funding is channelled on a non-competitive basis to the VCS with it as a sector-owned and controlled strategic fund management mechanism. It aims to grow and sustain the VCS sector through its membership and quality processes. A full member is deemed *contract ready* and associated members *not contract ready* depending how 10 key criteria are met. H2H works with the associate members to bring them to full *contract ready status* and also required annual updates from all members to ensure quality.

**Governance**

H2H will be organised as a formal consortium that will be collectively owned by its members through it being structured as a company limited by guarantee with registered charitable status. It will serve as hub service to provider spokes. The board of trustees will be composed of a blend of executive managers from the member organisations and individuals outside of the consortium membership with an interest in the delivery of public services by the VCS. Places on the board will be the subject of open contest on a twelve-monthly basis through the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and all members have the same voting rights.

**Accountability**

* clearly defined outcomes defined by the 10 membership criteria
* robust and transparent mechanisms for information about performance and financial management as required and spelt out in key operational statements
* a single lead organisation with clear reporting lines to its members involved in any one bid
* good governance arrangements based around membership
* a clear system for dealing promptly with failure is suggested by the quality check as well as the individual contracts
* funding allocation process is explicit and auditable, supported by a thorough evaluation of outcomes agreed with any one individual consortia through joint delivery planning or internal tendering

**Local VCS engagement as provider**

Will grow and sustain wide range of local VCS

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| --- | --- |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| * Value driven * Creates VCS led services * Relatively simple to set up * Objective criteria for capacity building * Risk of failure managed | * Resources needed to monitor and support sector * Balancing small and large VCS allocations * LA contacting and procurement set up * Unknown track record for ‘new’ organisation |

**For information on the current situation**

<http://www.vacoventry.org.uk/new-voluntary-sector-consortium-here2help-launched-22-february>

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