

Exercise: Fantasy Commissioning!

Scenario:

The Ministry of Justice is planning a programme designed to support the early release of prisoners. They are looking to pilot this programme in five geographical areas, with a specific focus on helping young women return successfully to the community after a substantial prison term.

Each identified individual will have a personal budget allocated to them to support their identified and agreed needs. This may be a notional budget (remaining with the authorities); a real budget held by a third party, where an independent third party organisation holds the funds and spends them on behalf of the individual; or a direct budget, where the individual themselves buys and manages the services agreed.

It is clear from the briefing document that MoJ is particularly keen to work with groups of smaller, local, voluntary and community groups. They recognise that this work will be most effective if carried out by organisations that truly understand the local context and the community into which the individual will return.

However, they have also specified a number of roles that they believe will support the individual's successful journey back into the community, and the success of the programme overall.

These roles are:

- Identifying the individual's needs prior to their release from prison
- Action planning for the pre-release and post-release stages
- Advocating for the individual throughout the planning process
- Managing the money attached to the individual – either as a third party or as support for direct budgets
- Supporting the individual to access suitable housing
- Supporting the individual into appropriate training or work
- Supporting the individual's ongoing physical and mental health needs
- Working with the individual's family to facilitate the transition
- Working with the local community to engage support for the individual and for the programme
- Project management and communication

What do you have to think about and do in order to successfully bid for this contract?

What needs to be in place to make it work once you have it?