

CREATE Centre
Smeaton Road
Bristol BS1 6XN

Tel: 0117 909 9949
Fax: 0117 933 0501
Email: info@voscur.org
Web: www.voscur.org

Brian McCutcheon (Chair, Safer Bristol Partnership)
Area Manager
Avon Fire and Rescue
Temple Back
Bristol BS1 6AS

16 November 2009

Dear Brian

Contracting with Safer Bristol

I have been contacted by a representative of WISH who has told me that Safer Bristol has accepted WISH as a member of its pool of preferred providers, but that WISH will be restricted to applying for contracts with a value of up to £30,000. This means that WISH is barred from applying to deliver its current work which has a value of more than £30,000.

This restriction will apply to other small, local groups who are delivering contracts for Safer Bristol.

The effect of the restriction will be to limit the pool of providers to larger organisations (prime providers), who may then sub-contract to smaller organisations such as WISH. This will reduce the funding going into direct service provision, as prime providers will take out management fees and overhead costs. The effect of this approach will be to drive out smaller community based organisations, stifle innovation and damage relationships between communities and public sector commissioning organisations.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this approach is not Compact compliant. The Compact advises that large contracts should be broken down so that smaller, local voluntary and community sector organisations have the opportunity to deliver local services. I hope that Safer Bristol will be able to reconsider this decision.

Wendy Stephenson



Chief Executive
Voscur

Copy to: Graham Sims, chair Compact steering group; Alex Raikes, Voscur rep to Safer Bristol; Darren Hall, Bristol Partnership manager.

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