

# Managing internal competition within Kingston Information and Advice Alliance

## Preamble:

We are now operating in a commissioning framework for funding our local services. This means that there will be situations where we need to compete for funding to support business needs of individual agencies. However, there will also be situations where we need to work cooperatively in partnership with other voluntary sector agencies. As a consequence there may be challenges in how and when we support each other and share information, policies, service delivery etc and when we need to protect our individual agency business interests. We recognise this as a significant but not insurmountable issue and understand that this has, to some extent, occurred in all local authority areas where a commissioning framework has been established for funding local services. The kiaa members agree that it will be helpful for us to have a written protocol for how we will all approach this situation and this note sets out the key principles.

## Principles:

- All decisions will be made in line with our understanding of the best service provision for local people
- Our preferred approach will be to work in partnership if possible
- We will all communicate and operate in a courteous and respectful manner, recognising that individual agencies need to make business decisions which may put them in competition with erstwhile partner agencies
- It will be recognised that decisions are rooted in business need and will be made by Trustee Board members. They are not personality focussed on Chief Officers.
- kiaa member agencies will be as open , transparent and honest as possible about their intentions to compete and will withdraw from partnership working during a bidding process so that they do not gain business advantage through unwitting sharing of sensitive information by another agency.

## Consequences:

If a partner agency is found to have acted in contravention of these principles - for instance submitting a competitive bid whilst working in partnership so that they gain a business advantage, then they will cease to be members of kiaa

## Dispute resolution:

Where a dispute arises between two member agencies Kingston Voluntary Action will act as an independent arbiter and their ruling on the issue will be accepted by and implemented by all parties to the dispute.

Date of implementation: September 2017

Date for review: August 2019