

29th July 2008

Dear

**ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE – THIRD SECTOR
COMMISSIONING PROCESS**

I am writing to confirm that the three stage appraisal process has been completed and a report outlining the recommendations has now been prepared for Cabinet. For organisational reasons the report date has had to be revised and it will now be presented to Cabinet on 1st September 2008. I am still optimistic that we can meet our 1st October 2008 date for commissioning new projects.

Clearly, this has been a testing time for us all and I would like to record my sincere thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding. I would like to acknowledge particularly the role of BVSC and Third Sector Chief Executives Forum for their advice, guidance and support over the life of this process.

To put into context the task we set ourselves; we received 278 organisational bids (many organisations submitted multiple bids) of those, 95 organisations were completely new to us. The total value over three years of bids received exceeded £60 million, representing an over commitment of 100%.

Due to our published explicit commitment to market development throughout the process we have been acutely aware that the decommissioning of some services forms an essential element of the award and decision making process. Consequently, a great deal of effort went into how recommendations were arrived at by the appraisal panels and the process was made transparent by the recruitment of partners, third sector representatives and service users, who were party to decision making against our published criteria.

Following decisions by Cabinet and any call in, Commissioners from Adults and Communities will complete new Service Level Agreements and any additional

Please reply to: Jennet Hartrick
Commissioning Manager
Third Sector Partnership Team
Adults and Communities

Room 66
Silvermere Centre
Silvermere Road
Birmingham B26 3XA

Telephone : 0121 675 4432
Facsimile : 0121 675 1816

www.birmingham.gov.uk/adults

Peter Hay, Strategic Director, Adults and Communities

recommendations made by the appraisal panels will receive attention as part of the process.

Unsuccessful bids and decommissioned organisations can 'dip into' a programme of transitional support and will be given advice and guidance on other sources of funding where applicable. Our aim was always to develop a process that was fair, transparent and consistent. To build upon the experiences and learning gained over the past months we are committed to a comprehensive review of this process at a later stage.

I will write to you again in early September confirming the status of your application. In the meantime if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jennet Hartrick on 675 4432 or Osaf Ahmed on 675 4433.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Tomlinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jon Tomlinson
Service Director Policy, Strategy & Commissioning

Cc Strategic Commissioners, Adults & Communities
Brian Carr, Chief Executive, BVSC