



Tendering and Procurement Practice

Tapp Course Announcement 15.06.09

Staff in charities and companies now have the opportunity to gain an accredited qualification in Tendering.

Following almost twelve months of work, and with support from the Open College Network (London Region) the OCN qualification at level 3 in Tendering and Procurement Practice (TaPP) is launched today. Project Development and Support Ltd, the specialist tendering training and support company has designed the course leading to the qualification to complement their Tendering for Care range of services for care, third and voluntary sector organisations.

Starting in February of this year the course has been piloted with a group of sixteen people from large and small charities across the UK. These have included senior staff with job titles such as Business Development Manager, and a group of three Regional Service Development Advisers from Age Concern and Help the Aged.

The TaPP course is delivered by distance learning using telephone conferencing. The pilot has used this approach successfully and has proved to be very popular with the students involved. The pilot group has included people from as wide spread locations as Scotland, Kent, Somerset, Manchester and Leeds. The format does not require the students to travel. They can participate from their office or from home.

Janet Roberts, Director of Project Development and Support Ltd said: "About a year ago a large charity asked us to help them by drawing up a job description for a member of staff who would specialise in all of their tendering and procurement work. When we looked around for a suitable qualification we found there were none. Of course, there is the CIPS suite of courses, a professional learning route which is followed by the purchasers, but there was nothing mirroring this for suppliers. There are other courses which touch on tendering. The TaPP course complements the excellent training offered for example, by the Institute of Fundraising which has a focus on fundraising. The TaPP course provides the first accredited, professional qualification for the growing group of staff within the third sector with jobs which focus is on tendering and procurement."

"The preparation of tenders is rapidly becoming a profession of its own. It is becoming difficult on the job market. The legitimate question to a fund raiser 'how much have you raised' is not appropriate for staff preparing tenders as success depends more on the strength of the organisation submitting the tender."

"We are extremely grateful to the CEO and curriculum staff of OCNLR for their help and support. Also to the staff of organisations such as Age Concern England (now Age Concern and Help the Aged), Dimensions UK, Wilf Ward Trust, Creative Support, KCHT, etc. who acted as guinea pigs through participating in the pilot. We are delighted that Hampshire Voluntary Action, Enfield Voluntary Action and Nottingham CVS are now in a position to off the course to their members."



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The TaPP course is a move towards the development of tendering and procurement professions with the knowledge and ability to meet CIPS qualified purchasers as equals. It is also step towards ensuring that all competition for public money is operated in a manner which is fair, open and transparent".

Notes for editors

The attached information leaflet provides full details of the course, including quotes.

Project Development and Support Ltd is a NOCN Registered Centre number 55869
The course code is VJ2/3/LR/001

There is a **possibility** of grant funding support for a significant proportion of the course fees from the government's Leadership and Management Grant Programme. As conditions vary between the regions those interested should contact us for details and referral information.

The course has been validated and registered with the UK Learning Directory. It now appears on over 70 government and learning websites including:

- Careers Advice
- DirectGov
- Local Next Steps and IAGs
- Education UK
- BBC and Channel 4

A website to support the course www.tappocn.org.uk will be launched on 16.06.09, from that date special email addresses for the course will also be live.

Full contact details will appear on the "contact us" section of the site.

Please contact us for further details:
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