



PPN 01/21 SOCIAL VALUE IN PROCUREMENT

BSO PaLS has a targeted approach to implementation for this PPN.

BACKGROUND

PPN 01/21 Scoring Social Value was first introduced in 2021. A revised policy, PPN 01/21 Social Value in Procurement, was implemented in February 2025 to incorporate lessons learned and to align with the introduction of the Procurement Act 2023. PPN 01/21 Social Value in Procurement, requires Contracting Authorities to apply social value throughout all stages of the procurement cycle.

From 1 June 2022, tenders have included a minimum of 10% of the total award criteria to score social value. Under PPN 01/21 Social Value in Procurement, this 10% minimum applies to contracts for works above the UK Procurement Threshold and contracts for services above £500,000 (inclusive of VAT). It is also possible to give greater weight to social value than the 10% minimum or to score social value on contracts outside of these thresholds.

Social value refers to wider financial and non-financial impacts on the wellbeing of individuals, communities and the environment. Social value incorporates all aspects of sustainable procurement, including ethical and sustainable supply chains, community benefits and wealth building, job and skills creation and efforts to decarbonise.

Operational Approach

BSO PaLS continue to work collaboratively with the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) to understand and maximise the social value delivered by public procurement, in line with the Department's strategic priorities.

All PaLS staff have attended SIB training on social value when it was first implemented, and continue to avail of training offered by SIB. Tender Assessment Panels (TAP) from HSC Organisations are routinely encourage to attend this training when involved in tenders and signposted to resources available on SIB's website.

PaLS will continue to include social value in all relevant contracts going forward, and to monitor the impacts as part of the Contract Management process.

Regarding reporting, BSO PaLS live Sourcing Register captures key information to facilitate an automated reporting process and will continue to monitor data to ensure key information is captured following award of contracts.



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Current Delivery

Social value continues to be delivered against the 4 indicator's across Health and Social Care Contracts, as detailed below in current contracts being delivered and noted in previous years' case studies.

Indicator's:

Increasing Secure Employment and Skills –

28 disadvantaged people have been employed, 196 weeks of work experience delivered, 100 devices donated for digital inclusion.

Building Ethical and Resilient Supply Chains –

5 fair work policies implemented, 328 hours of business development and knowledge sharing.

Promoting Well-being –

832 hours of Health and Well-being initiatives delivered, 100 hours of community engagement.

Delivering Zero Carbon –

19 action plans implemented for environment action plan.

Further to case studies previously noted:

Contract 390039 Healthcare Information Benchmarking Service –

CHKS have employed and support a Software Developer in Northern Ireland; “Our work with this person includes supporting their continuing education and facilitating improvement training to enhance their skills. The person is progressing well towards being a Python Developer, from their current position as a junior developer.”

Contract RM6174_3797981 Multifunctional Devices (MFD) & Managed Print Service for SHSCT –

Konica Minolta has provided the following social values:

- Paid Employment - Employment for one person who face barriers to employment or are from a deprived area (49.9 weeks)
- Fair Work Strategy - Respect for People Policy
- Environmental Strategy Annual Update - Environment Policy
- Supply Chain Resilience and Capacity Strategy – Procurement Policy
- In-work progression and skills development strategy – Colleague Retention Policy
- Ethical Supply Chain Strategy - Supplier Code of Conduct



Case Study: Reusable Clean Room Garments and Mops

Contract Number: 4663254
Contract Title: Reusable Clean Room Garments and Mops
Contract Duration: 3 years with provision for extension for any period up to and including 24 months

This contract was awarded to **CWS Cleanrooms Ireland Ltd.**

The estimated total value including extensions and contingencies was **£317,000.00.**

The Contract is for the collection, laundry, disinfection and return of clean room garments and mops to the Pharmacy Aseptic Unit at Altnagelvin Hospital, Western Health and Social Care Trust.

The social value methodology applied was 1 question allocated 10% of the award criteria. As part of the tender submission, Tenderers had to provide full details of how they would support the delivery of social value within the work of the contract, referencing schedule 4 of the SS20a Scoping and Specification document, where the requirements were clearly outlined.

CWS Cleanrooms Ireland provided a presentation on their Employee Assistance Programme, outlining their approach to Health and Wellbeing for their staff including counselling sessions, parent coaching and career coaching recognising the need to support staff both at work and in their home lives.



Case Study: Provision of a Regional Service User Network for Adult Service Users and Service User Groups in Northern Ireland (Substance Use Services)

Contract Number: 4955117
Contract Title: Provision of a Regional Service User Network for Adult Service Users and Service User Groups in Northern Ireland (Substance Use Services)
Contract Duration: 3 years with provision for up to 4 x 12-month extension periods

This contract was awarded to: **Action on Substances through Community Education and Related Training (ASCERT)** to deliver this regional service on a sole supply basis.

The estimated total value including extensions and contingencies was **£882,000.00**.

The 'Alternative' approach was utilised for this Contract and the Social Value Considerations outlined within this Contract were scored at 10% of the total award criteria.

The Contract Adjudication Group selected '**Theme 4 – Promoting Wellbeing**' and '**Indicator 4.2 – Influence staff, suppliers, customers and communities through the delivery of the Contract to support health and wellbeing, including physical and mental health**' for evaluation.

As part of tender submission, Tenderers were required to detail a Social Value Delivery Plan with reference to relevant initiatives that they would undertake if awarded the Contract.

The Contractor committed to the following Social Value Delivery Plan as part of their tender submission, to be delivered across the Contract period;

- **Initiative 1:** Deliver 15 x 1-hour Health Awareness Sessions each contract year to at least 150 people in the community. This will support the mental or physical health and wellbeing of their workforce and members of their community and will be prioritised towards areas of greatest deprivation.
- **Initiative 2:** Provide support to 1 community partner each year to co-develop and implement a health initiative that supports their staff, volunteers or beneficiaries. This initiative will promote the health and wellbeing of people in the community by supporting the development and implementation of health-related projects. It also supports the health and wellbeing of the contract workforce.
- **Timescales:** Both initiatives will take place during month 6 to 12 of the first year of the contract and between months 1 to 12 in subsequent years.
- **Resources:** Initiative 1 will be delivered/co-delivered by the Project Support Worker or other ASCERT staff and/or the Network volunteer trainers. Initiative 2 will be overseen by the Network Service Manager and the volunteer hours to support the project will be provided by Network service staff, ASCERT staff and Network members.

The Contract commenced in April 2024 and the PHA will monitor the Contractors performance on a quarterly basis per annum against their proposed Social Value Delivery Plan.

The aim of this Contractors initiatives are to support the mental / physical health and wellbeing of their workforce and members of their community and will be prioritised towards areas of greatest deprivation.



Case Study: Community Based Psychological Intervention and Support Services for People who Self-Harm including support for their Family / Carer / Support Person

Contract Number: 4352378
Contract Name: Community Based Psychological Intervention and Support Services for People who Self-Harm including support for their Family / Carer / Support Person
Contract Period: 3 years with provision for up to 4 x 12 month extension period options

This tender was for the provision of community based Psychological Interventions and support Services for people who self-harm including support for their family/carer or other Support Person(s).

The Service is known regionally as the Self Harm Intervention Programme (SHIP) and it is a Step 2 Service in terms of the 'You in Mind' regional Mental Health Care Pathway.

The tender was divided into 5 separate Lots based on HSC Trust geographical area. The Contractor and value of each Lot including all extensions and contingencies is provided below:

Lot 1: Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) - awarded to Action on Substances through Community Education and Related Training (ASCERT) - £1,813,560.00
Lot 2: Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) - awarded to ASCERT - £2,567,544.00
Lot 3: Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) – awarded to Inspire Wellbeing - £1,446,795.00
Lot 4: South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) – awarded to Inspire Wellbeing - £1,600,095.00
Lot 5: Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) – awarded to Zest Healing the Hurt Ltd - £2,908,395.00

A score of 10% of the award criteria was allocated for social value and the 'Alternative' approach was utilised for this tender. The Contract Adjudication Group selected 'Theme 4 – Promoting Wellbeing' and Indicator 4.2. *'Influence staff, suppliers, customers and communities through the delivery of the Contract to support health and wellbeing, including physical and mental health'*



Case Study: Community Based Psychological Intervention and Support Services for People who Self-Harm including support for their Family / Carer / Support Person continued

Tenderers were required to provide a social value delivery plan to outline how they will deliver initiatives related to Indicator 4.2. as part of the tender.

ASCERT made the following commitments for Lots 1 and 2 to be delivered across the Contract Period:

- Community Wellbeing Sessions: 10 x 1 hour Community Wellbeing Sessions each contract year to reaching a total of at least 100 people in the community.
- Staff Wellbeing Project: 2-hour wellbeing workshop based on the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing framework to at least 10 ASCERT staff annually. Post workshop, these employees will each receive a minimum of 3 hours of additional organisational support to help them put their wellness plan into action.
- Engage with SHIP employees, sessional workers and other ASCERT staff through a planned group session and through ongoing support from the service manager.

Inspire Wellbeing made the following commitments for Lots 3 and 4 to be delivered across the Contract Period:

- 2 hours x 8 sessions per annum of ongoing and regular reflective practice and debrief to support and enhance emotional wellbeing and resilience provided to all contract workforce staff and SHIP counsellors.
- 2 hours x 4 sessions per annum of online and face-to-face peer support and information sharing networks across the contract workforce.
- 4 hours x 2 initiatives per annum of Physical health initiatives (eg Couch to 5K, access to pedometers, cardio-vascular disease and stroke health checks, promotion of health screening opportunities) for internal staff.
- Community Engagement and Volunteering Community engagement activities designed for the contract workforce and stakeholders on this contract.
- 4 hours x 2 initiatives per annum of community volunteering opportunities
- 2 hours x 6 workshops per annum of introductory workshops of self-harm and how to support individuals who self-harm to staff, volunteers and service users from other community and voluntary sector organisations.
- 2 hours x 4 events per annum community activities led by a range of other organisations from across Northern Ireland promoting awareness of mental health, self-harm, suicide, anxiety, depression etc

Zest Healing the Hurt made the following commitments for Lot 5 to be delivered across the Contract Period:

- Contact a range of Colleges and meet with Year 14 students to discuss the importance of Emotional Health and the Impact of Alcohol and drug use.
- 2 community/public talks on Understanding Suicide, one in Derry/L'Derry and 1 in Omagh. These will be free of charge public events open to the two communities.

Each of the Contractors will be required to report on delivery of Social Value requirements on a quarterly basis.