

CME Evaluation Tool

Specification and Expression of Interest

Community Catalysts CIC

Community Catalysts is a social enterprise working with partners across the UK to try to make sure that people who need support to live their lives can get the help they need in ways that suit them and be part of strong, inclusive, communities with real opportunities to connect, create and contribute.

We help local people use their energies and talents to establish small enterprises and ventures that deliver sustainable care and health services for other local people, creating jobs and volunteering opportunities. [Across the UK we employ local Catalysts who offer tailored mentoring and support to these enterprises](#), ensuring their venture is set up to be sustainable and provide safe and high quality services.

We are also the home of the Local Area Coordination Network and Small Good Stuff Network.

Background

Our Community Microenterprise Development Programme is highly successful. To date, enterprises we have helped have supported 34,188 people, created or sustained 5,662 jobs and nearly 3,000 volunteering opportunities.

We use a tested approach to micro-enterprise development. It works at three levels:

- **Public sector:** Helping managers and commissioners understand what needs to change (culture and systems) and make changes. This is essential in overcoming barriers to achieving anticipated outcomes
- **Community:** Identifying local partners and working with them to strengthen community organisations and activities that support micro-enterprise
- **Individual:** Helping people understand what is needed; shape their idea; find the resources to get started; provide patient coaching and expert advice to ensure their enterprise is legal and sustainable.

Our approach is flexible and can be used to nurture enterprises using a range of different business models, supporting different people in different ways. E.g in Oxfordshire to help sole traders and small businesses provide homecare, support at home and in the community to older people; in Islington to help social enterprises and charities provide support during the day to people with a learning disability/autism.

Our reputation as the leading development organisation for micro-enterprise in the health and sector has resulted in case studies from areas we have worked in being quoted as examples of good practice in the following reports published in 2023: House of Lords “Gloriously Ordinary Lives” report on Social Care, the “Reimaging Care” report produced by the Archbishops Commission report and the ADASS “Time to Act, A Roadmap to Reform Care and Support in England”.

“The top benefit of having Community Catalysts has been the improvement in the stability of our domiciliary care market. The variety of options available to people in the community now is clear and there is a choice”

Steve Latham-White, Commissioning Officer, Wrexham County Borough Council

We have ambitions to grow our Community Microenterprise programme and extend our Small Good Stuff Network so that more people can benefit. We know that public resources are tight and rightly there is increased rigour in deciding where to spend them. We would therefore like to use our own resources to fund the development of an evaluation tool to help local authorities and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to fully understand the financial value of these small enterprises so they can continue (or start) to invest in our programme and help small enterprises have lasting impact on people and local economy.

Specification

We are looking to commission an organisation or individual with specialist expertise to develop an evaluation tool that we (Community Catalysts) can use to demonstrate the financial impact and value of our programmes:

- Individually - to help build the case for a Local Authority / ICB investment in starting a programme and maintaining it. Ensuring local programmes are set up for the long term.
- Collectively – across all our CME development programmes, to help us identify the drivers of financial sustainability so we can strengthen our programme further and evidence the financial impact on the public sector.

The tool needs to be something that we can manage in house on an ongoing basis and must therefore be simple to use and cost effective to run / maintain.

We require the successful organisation/individual to:

- Work with Community Catalysts to scope, plan and deliver the project end to end
- Design a bespoke tool – working with enterprises and members of the Community Catalysts team as appropriate
- Be fully compliant with GDPR in order to hold and use any personal details supplied by enterprises.

Community Catalysts is able to offer expertise around health and social care and issues facing older and disabled people if this knowledge is not held within the bidding organisation.

Our investment will have a legacy and will:

- Enable Community Catalysts to assess the financial value of our CME Development Programmes now and in the future
- Enable Community Catalysts to take a similar approach to extend the tool to other areas of our business (other projects and programmes) as part of a phases approach if additional funding is available
- Mean the successful organisation cannot use what it develops themselves or for others

Deliverables

- A bespoke financial evaluation tool and associated training / manual with IP rights and ownership rights belonging to Community Catalysts that sits on our platforms and is easy to maintain/alter
- Associated project plan and reporting for the period of the project
- Completed by 1st July 2025

Expression of Interest

We are inviting a small number of organisations or individuals to submit a short expression of interest (EOI). We are looking for one partner organisation to do the work. The EOI should be no more than 3 sides of A4 and should detail:

- Information about the individual or organisation expressing an interest – constitution, credibility and expertise
- Insurance documents
- Two references from people you have undertaken similar work for
- How you would plan to approach the work – with anticipated timescales and software you would suggest using
- A copy of the CVs of those delivering the work
- How you see the legacy of the work moving forward
- Quote for undertaking the work with full breakdown

The EOI should be sent to pip.cannons@communitycatalysts.co.uk by 5pm Friday 31st January 2025.