

Marketing & Comms Toolkit

TOOL 4: RAISING YOUR PROFILE - PREPARING THE BASICS

We recommend that you consider this tool as a check list. Compare your organisation's capacity to undertake the essentials and prioritise what is important for you and your stakeholders.

ESSENTIALS ON A BUDGET

- Branded website
- Email/e-news with links and images
- Networking in person (at Ward Forums, neighbourhood networking events, parish councils where they exist, community centre open days, school and church bazaars, residents' associations)
- Branded Twitter page and/or branded Facebook page/group depending on your service
- Informative entry on Google Maps with pictures
- Registration on procurement portals including keywords and pictures that make a statement about your work
- Basic printed materials branded leaflet, annual report, business card

WEBSITE

Make sure your domain name says what you are. This will help search engines to find you (e.g. www.ITsupport.co.uk says what it does – provides IT support). An abbreviation will not tell people what you do and are unless this is how your brand is known (e.g. www.bbc.co.uk) Local examples that 'say what they are' include www.stpaulscommunitycentre.co.uk, www.befriendafamily.org.uk, www.uniondance.co.uk

EMAIL/ENEWS

Make sure your e-news bulletin, Facebook and Twitter pages are branded like your website and printed publications.

If you don't have an e-newsletter and want one, we recommend <u>www.mailchimp.com</u> where you can set up a free account for up to 2000 subscribers and set up different distribution lists for different interest groups using more than one template.





NETWORKS

Find local networks and get your organisation known. You will be the 'face' of your organisation, so present yourself in a way that reflects the code of practice and values of the organisation. If networking events give an opportunity to speak, take it. Tell people briefly and in easy language what it is you do. If there's an image you can show, or a story you can tell them, it will help them to remember you.

LinkedIn provides opportunities to find networks, as can Twitter. Some of these with a geographical focus might also meet in person.

There is an Area Ward forum in your neighbourhood that is attended by local people including community enthusiasts and councillors. Your trustees and volunteers might be willing and able to help with this and become advocates in a public arena. Get involved and ask relevant questions.

To find out your Area Forum in Westminster and dates of meetings, visit http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/councilgovernmentanddemocracy/democraticprocessesandevents/areaforums/

TWITTER

Tweets are limited to 140 characters, so this is for short, snappy messages.

Use it to:

- Tell people about events and activities
- Give hints and tips
- Give links to articles

Follow a stream of comment on a specific topic (marked by a hashtag, e.g. #westminster, #collabor8today, #showyourworth). Follow advice, policy guidance, voluntary sector hints and tips from One Westminster @OneWestminster. Follow the Local Authority @CityWestminster.

If you decide to use Twitter, be clear about its purpose for your organisation, why you are developing a following on it, and why you are following others.

FACEBOOK

Organisations can set up a page but cannot make friends on it like individuals can. People can 'like' your page. Once you have 30 'likes', Facebook gives you access to more statistical information about the use of your page.

An individual can set up a group, so you can use a personal Facebook account do to this. Your group could reflect the membership of your organisation and be a way for people to meet, discuss, share news, pictures and videos online. You may want to set the security



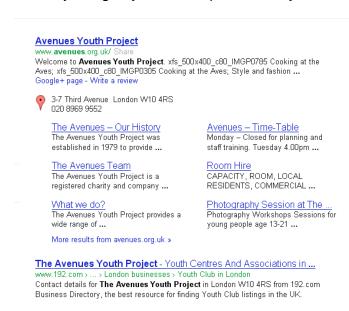


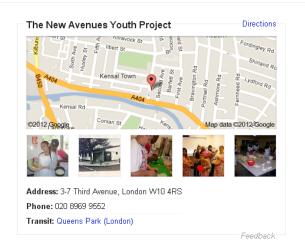
settings to be a protected group (e.g. schools, youth projects, support group) if you want to safeguard children or vulnerable adults.

If your aim is to build a community with a sense of belonging, then a Facebook group might be a good solution for you.

GOOGLE MAPS/PLACES

This is free and suitable for any organisation that operates from one or more locations. If you search for your organisation using Google, the listing will show its title and key pages of your website. On the right side of the window, you will see a Google map with your location and any images you have uploaded to your description.





PROCUREMENT PORTALS

Register and receive alerts about forthcoming contracts from Westminster City Council and neighbouring boroughs. Remember that Westminster now has a tri-borough agreement and services will be commissioned across the three boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea.

Register free of charge with:

CompeteFor www.competefor.com.

Contracts finder www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/ London Tenders Portal: https://www.londontenders.org/ Procure4London: https://www.procure4london.gov.uk/ Supply contracts: https://www.supplycontracts.co.uk/

Tracker (free tender search, part of BIP Solutions Ltd): www.tendermatch.co.uk/

- ✓ Make it easy for buyers to find you as a supplier by using keywords that they might be looking for.
- ✓ Make sure you tick all the relevant services and products that you can deliver.





- ✓ Make sure you have policies in place that are required in the Pre Qualification Questionnaire.
- ✓ Upload pictures to your profile that show high quality delivery and speak for themselves about what you do.

Clinical Commissioning Groups will also be looking for organisations to deliver health and wellbeing services in Westminster. Details of how they will commission services are not yet known to us (28.09.2012).

PRINTED MATERIALS

House-to-house leafleting may work for you if you provide a service that is limited to or primarily for a small geographical area of Westminster. You will find cheap printers online or may find local printers who are willing to give a good deal. If you need support with Graphic Design, see *Tool 1*. The following example is a draft postcard for Just for Kids Law:



Be consistent with your **branding**. Your logo/brand should show what you do and give a sense of your values.











Your **house style** needs to be clear to follow and recognise. House style will tell your staff, volunteers and graphic designer what font(s) and sizes you prefer for headings and body text, what colour palette they should choose from, what colours (proportions of CMYK) to use when reproducing your logo, how you prefer to see abbreviations written. For instance, some prefer to see 'e.g.' whilst others prefer to use 'eg' and minimise punctuation. Some organisations prefer to use a block style, whilst others prefer to indent the first line of a paragraph. Know what you want and write it down as a check list for people to follow.

Use sans serif fonts as they are easier to read.

Choose a colour palette for your logo and subsequent publications that invites people in.

You can find online advice on colours for marketing purposes, for example:

http://www.sibagraphics.com/colour.php

http://www.thinkbrilliant.com/2010/04/the-science-of-colors-in-marketing-and-web-design/



