










# Top Tips

## Contracts and Commissioning

-  Volunteer commissioners do work!
-  Ideas from groups embedded in their local community or community of interest are more likely to be successful.
-  Co-production is at the heart of the most successful projects.
-  Rigid specification and contract management can inhibit innovation. Test and learn, review and adapt.
-  Size doesn't matter. Big providers are not always the best.
-  Marketing and evaluation should be built in, not an afterthought.
-  Support and challenge. On-going support should sit alongside management of contracts.
-  Many people do not like to join activities targeting a specific age range; thematic or interest-based groups are more appealing.
-  Charging for a service is acceptable; it gives value and helps with sustainability. Be transparent about the offer from the beginning.
-  Sustainability and legacy of projects should be embedded through the application and delivery phases. Sustainability plans should be developed long before the end of a project.