

## About 4ps - Services

### 5 Key Themes

4ps work is underpinned by five key themes:

1. **Members and Officers** - 4ps works with both members and officers to build procurement and project management capacity.
2. **Peer Support** - Centres of Excellence, Gateway Reviews and project Networks enable authorities which are strong in a particular area to transfer skills to other authorities and enable all authorities to build expert teams.
3. **Seamless Delivery** - We aim to co-ordinate our work with the LGA, IDeA, EO and central government to offer local authorities seamless delivery.
4. **Local Solutions** - We aim to deliver and support services which are affordable, delivered locally, and relevant to councils' local needs.
5. **Needs-driven** - We conduct client satisfaction surveys and adapt our activities to ensure we meet proven demand from authorities.

### 4 Key Services

4ps has four priorities in 2003/4 to build procurement and project management capacity across local government.

#### 1. Project Support

Traditionally one of 4ps core areas of work, project support will be in three formats during 2003/4:

Direct project support - to as many projects as possible with a selection i.e. those we consider to offer the widest know-how opportunities, receiving a higher level of support.

Network groups - to be extended beyond the schools, housing, leisure, social services and street lighting groups to include regional schools groups, waste management and joint services. Run at least 4 times a year each group enables hundreds of people involved in projects to share best practice.

Procurement packs - assembled with professional legal, financial and technical support these provide a single source of 'everything you need to know' about procuring large projects. 4ps has already launched Street Lighting, and Leisure packs. 2003 will see the launch of:

Schools - April 2003

Social Services - September 2003  
Waste Management - October 2003  
Joint Services - October 2003

The packs drive down the cost of procurement and improve speed and efficiency by reducing councils' need for private sector advisers and providing standardised formats for all the major contracts and processes involved.

## 2. Gateway Reviews

New for 2003 these are reviews of a procurement project, on behalf of the Chief Executive, at critical stages of its lifecycle, by and independent, commercially experienced team.

Already identified as the main driver for improving project procurement in central government we believe they will have a major beneficial impact in local government.

## 3. Skills Development

Delivered locally, the Procurement Skills Workshop covers both the development process and the procurement process. In parallel, we are working with IDeA and EO to develop a Certificate of Competence in procurement, and develop and pilot Successful Delivery Skills.

## 4. Centres of Excellence and Wider Partnerships

Currently still in development 4ps in conjunction with IDeA hope to partner with a number of 'excellent procurement' councils. The partnership will provide advisory services to smaller and weaker councils.

In addition, we are developing our support for wider, non PFI partnerships including NHS Lift schemes.

Further information about a core services is available from our Richard Kelly, 4ps Business Manager. Contact Richard by email on [richard.kelly@4ps.gov.uk](mailto:richard.kelly@4ps.gov.uk).

## Conferences & Workshops - 4ps / Partnerships For Health

This event, organised by 4ps and Partnerships for Health and hosted at the LGA will bring together the major partners and stakeholders involved in the LIFT programme.

The conference is specifically designed to draw together and address local authority issues regarding LIFT and will include lessons learnt from the those authorities who have already been involved with LIFT projects.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
13 October 2003	<p data-bbox="587 257 1262 376">Local Government Conference Centre, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ</p> <p data-bbox="587 423 1339 589">More details about the conference, including booking information, are available from the LGA website. The following link will take you directly to the appropriate page:</p> <p data-bbox="587 629 1326 667"><a href="#">4ps &amp; Partnerships for Health - LIFT Conference</a></p>