

Val Chinn

Co-Founder

PGDip Dip SW/CQSW MA



Key Skills

- Project management
- Local research
- Stakeholder mapping
- Ability to engage with hard-to-reach groups
- Ability to design innovative and creative stakeholder and community engagement activities
- Feasibility studies and appraisals
- Social impact assessment methodologies
- Sustainable/ responsible procurement policies, strategies, implementation plans and tools
- Securing a range of community benefit outcomes from major capital development projects
- Development of corporate responsibility policies, strategies and action plans
- Business development
- Workshop design and facilitation

Experience

A senior professional with 25 years' experience in social and criminal justice and regeneration initiatives, and considerable experience in senior management across the public, private and voluntary sectors, Val's career has focused on challenging services and funding sources to achieve maximum impact for the people and communities served.

During her time in Merseyside Probation Service, Val worked with offenders and their communities across the Merseyside area. As a manager she specialised in developing probation responses to drug using offenders and worked regionally to co-ordinate services across Social Services, Health, Probation and Voluntary Sector provision.

As Chief Executive of The Big Issue in the North Company and The Big Issue in the North Trust, she established successful multi-service centres in Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds which were viewed as prototypes for the subsequent LIFT initiatives. Thousands of homeless people in the NW were ensured greater economic and social benefit via access to employment, training, health, arts, and personal development opportunities, and were supported in their bids to establish sustainable homes and successful lives. The Trust raised £1million a year to maintain these services, from statutory funding, grant-giving trusts, corporate sponsorship, individual donations... and any other sources it could legally find. It also raised capital funding to buy and refurbish its buildings.

In 2002, she co-founded FSquared, with the central aims of improving the local impact of regeneration projects, and of developing a successful business with high social and commercial outputs, FSquared's specialisms add value to large scale regeneration programmes, throughout the UK.

Since its launch, FSquared has partnered some of the most successful organisations in the country to procure, launch, and deliver a range of complex capital programmes. By ensuring that social, environmental and economic outcomes are delivered, the projects make the greatest possible impact on local people and their communities.

With experience in a wide variety of inward investment projects and PFI/PPP programmes the company works with both the public and private sectors and has developed a strategic vision which targets local economic drivers such as routes into employment; sets clear aspirations for each project such as securing increased local benefit from private sector involvement in government contracts; and creates space for innovative responses such as the Learning Hub, a site based training model, launched in November 2006 and one of the first ConstructionSkills National Academy for Construction projects nationally.

To develop opportunities for ethical corporate development, responsible bidding and responsible procurement, FSquared has designed, developed and facilitated creativity workshops with leaders, managers, key stakeholders and key partners across a wide range of disciplines, sectors and projects. Val retains an active lead role in this aspect of the company's work, believing it to be crucial in influencing sustainable change and leadership in public services and capital investments. She has led workshops across major government investment programmes, with key partnership and legacy objectives, such as LIFT, and Building Schools for the Future. Most recently, Val has facilitated creative and collaborative sessions for the Digital Inclusion Team (part of the Department of Communities and Local Government), Rydon Maintenance and Balfour Beatty. All of the projects that Val has worked on she has used her expertise to turn complex, multi-disciplinary teams into real, working partnerships that work successfully to deliver positive change to people and communities.

Val has helped to promote continuing commercial success for the company, which now has bases in Manchester and London. Her career has played a part in defining the current imperative for business to be commercially successful and at the same time make a social difference.

Key Projects

Project	Client	Role
Kent Building Schools for the Future Bootcamp	Skanska	Design, organisations and facilitation of a 3 day "Bootcamp" attended by 30+ people
Prolific and Priority Offenders and Digital Inclusion Workshop	Digital Inclusion Team (DCLG)	Designed, organised and facilitated an "Innovation Workshop" at which participants discussed ways that prolific and priority offenders might be supported using digital technologies
Sustainable Procurement Training Workshops	Northwest Improvement and Efficiency Partnership	Designed, organised and facilitated a programme of workshops for this Improvement and Efficiency Partnership
Corporate Responsibility Workshops	Rydon Maintenance	Designed, organised and facilitated several workshops to support Rydon to develop and implement their corporate responsibility approach