**Future Talent Fund**

The purpose of the Future Talent Fund is to test and evaluate ‘what works’ to support the most academically able, disadvantaged students in non-selective, state-funded secondary schools in England to fulfil their potential. The Future Talent Fund will build an evidence base on good practice for this cohort, by trialling projects in schools, identifying clear delivery mechanisms for provision, and encouraging more evidence-led interventions for spending Pupil Premium funding.

We are seeking a contractor who will be responsible for managing the Future Talent Fund. This will include: warming the market for potential projects; assessing bids and recommending to DfE the funding of projects; managing approved projects; procuring independent evaluation, and disseminating the findings.

The Fund is expected to support grants worth £21m over its lifetime (2018-20). The Government will provide £16m of this. The contractor will also be responsible for raising at least £5m additional funding to contribute to the fund; this will supplement DfE funding. The additional funding will come from a variety of alternative sources, but not from state-funded schools.

The programme will focus on secondary education, with a particular focus on key stage 3 and the transition between key stage 2 and key stage 3.

The Fund will be a national programme with a particular focus paid to category 5 and 6 areas (based on the Social Mobility Index)[[1]](#footnote-1).

DfE is holding a briefing session at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT on **Friday 5th January 2018, from 14:00 to 16:00**. If you wish to attend, please send the name of your organisation and the name and contact details of those wishing to attend (no more than 2 people per organisation) to FutureTalent.FUND@education.gov.uk.

ESTIMATED VALUE: The value of the contract is estimated to be around £2m.

START AND END DATES OF THE CONTRACT: 01/04/2018 – 31/03/2020 with an option to extend the term for up to a further 24 months. This option is contingent upon supplier performance, and the availability of funding.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This notice is for information only, and the Department reserves the right not to enter a formal procurement process and not award contract(s). The information contained in this notice, including information relating to the nature and scope of the Authority’s requirements, the service classification of this requirement or the CPV code(s), is only indicative of the Authority’s current thinking and is neither exhaustive nor binding.

While the information contained in this document is believed to be correct at the time of issue, neither the Authority nor its advisors will accept any liability for its accuracy, adequacy or completeness. No express or implied warranty is given relating to the information contained in this document and the Authority reserves the right to amend or cease either part of the whole requirement set out in this Prior Information Notice at any time. Accordingly, the Authority will not be liable for any bid cost, expenditure, work or effort incurred by a supplier in acting on the basis of this Prior Information Notice.

All future information will be issued to potential suppliers via the Bravo Solutions e-procurement platform. Suppliers can access this system at <https://education.bravosolutions.co.uk> where the details of how to register and the terms of free registration are presented. Any questions about the proposed procurement can be submitted to the following e-mail address: Futuretalent.FUND@education.gov.uk.

Potential suppliers are advised to familiarise themselves with the Department’s Security and Off-shoring policies.

1. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defining-achieving-excellence-areas-methodology [↑](#footnote-ref-1)