**Background:**

The purpose of this review is to gain comprehensive understanding of how AP is currently being used and commissioned in Nottingham City to enable transparent decision making for future arrangements and suggestions for market improvements. The review will be used to inform the collaborative approach to specialist education to agree what Nottingham City needs to achieve with AP on behalf of schools and residents, how it will be used in the future and what future commissioning arrangements need to be.

**Challenges identified in Nottingham City are:**

* + Increasing permanent exclusions
  + Lack of regulated/registered AP provision currently
  + Low rates of reintegration currently from AP back to mainstream
  + Poor attendance rates in Nottingham City
  + Escalating SEMH needs of children- requiring specialist intervention and support
  + Insufficient and incorrect data makes it difficult to strategically plan AP

**Scope:**

**The consultant will be required to:**

* Review the commissioning practices for alternative education provision within the local authority, including the identification and assessment of need, referral and placement processes, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
* Understand the landscape of alternative provision in the city; how it is used, for what purpose and the nature and demographics of young people accessing this provision.
* Analyse data on attendance, attainment, and outcomes for pupils accessing alternative provision services within the local authority.
* Identify good practice and areas for improvement in commissioning practices and the use of alternative education provision within the local authority.
* Prepare an evaluation report with recommendations for improving commissioning practices and the use of alternative education provision within the local authority.

**Methodology:**

**The consultant will be required to:**

* Conduct interviews with key stakeholders, including representatives from schools, the local authority, parents, and pupils.
* Conduct a review of relevant policy and guidance, including the local authority's Alternative Provision Strategy and SEND Strategy.
* Analyse data on attendance, attainment, and outcomes for pupils accessing alternative provision services within the local authority.
* Benchmark the local authority's commissioning practices and use of alternative education provision against national standards and good practice.
* Prepare a final report outlining the consultant's findings, conclusions, and recommendations for improving commissioning practices and the use of alternative education provision within the local authority.

**Deliverables:**

**The consultant will be required to provide:**

* A draft report for comment and feedback from the local authority.
* A final report that includes an executive summary, findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
* A presentation of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the local authority.

**Timescale:**

The review should be completed within a maximum of 6 months from the date of appointment, with a consultant being employed 3 days a week full time.

**Budget:**

The budget for this project is £43,200 – day rate of £550. This is an all-inclusive fee, covering all aspects of the review, including travel and expenses.

**Selection Criteria:**

**Consultants should demonstrate:**

* Relevant experience in conducting reviews of commissioning practices and the use of alternative education provision.
* A good understanding of national standards and good practice in commissioning practices and the use of alternative education provision.
* Strong research and analytical skills, including experience of working with quantitative and qualitative data.
* Excellent communication skills, including experience of presenting complex findings to a range of stakeholders.
* The ability to work collaboratively with the local authority and schools within the local authority area.
* Value for money in their proposed approach.
* **Commitment to adhering to all NCC policies and procedures.**

**Submission:**

Consultants should submit a proposal outlining their proposed approach, methodology and timescale, along with providing two case studies of previous work.

Please provide details of key staff who will work on this project.

Deadline for submission of proposals is 12pm on Wednesday 2nd August 2023.

Interviews will take place 11th August 2023.

**Evaluation:**

Proposals will be evaluated against the selection criteria outlined above, and the successful consultant will be notified by 11th August.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the local authority.