****

**Market Testing - HIV support services (Camden & Islington)**

1. **Overview**

The Council are reviewing the HIV Support Services, which are currently commissioned by Camden and Islington Public Health.

A PIN was previously published on the London Tender Portal, on the 18th of January 2021 and closed on the 8th of February 2021.

**Details of the service**

The HIV services are currently delivered by five (5) providers through four (4) separate contracts and grants which will come to an end on the 31st of March 2022. We aim to advertise this opportunity in June 2021.

These services aims to;

* Encourage people who are HIV positive, to follow a personal exercise/activity programme in order to increase fitness, self-esteem and quality of life
* Provide comprehensive ‘whole person’ support that impacts across the individual’s physical, mental and emotional health and well-being, to help them better manage the direct and indirect effects of HIV on their day to day lives
* To provide peer support, advice and means of engagement
* To empower people living with HIV through information
* To provide practical, emotional and intellectual support
* To lessen the sense of isolation
* To help eradicate irrational fears
* To help people come to terms with diagnosis
* To help people develop inner strengths and resources.

We would like to combine the strengths and opportunities of each service to create a network of peer support services which will form the basis of a

pathway for service users from clinical settings to community based support.

This will include: face-to-face groups and workshops including groups for

newly diagnosed service users; communal meals and get togethers for adults

with HIV and children affected by HIV; face-to-face exercise programmes;

face-to-face counselling; face-to-face one-to-one support with peer mentors.

1. **Market testing**

The Council wishes to undertake soft market testing on the re-commissioning of these services, and therefore would welcome the views of providers on the questions set out below.

Interested parties will not be prejudiced by any response or failure to respond to this soft market testing and a response to this notice does not guarantee any invitation to participate in any future public procurement process that the Council may conduct.

This notice does not constitute a call for competition to procure any services for the Council and the Council is not bound to accept any proposals offered. The Council is not liable for any costs, fees or expenses incurred by any party participating in the soft market testing exercise. Any procurement of any services by the Council in due course will be carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Any responses provided will not be treated as commercially confidential, unless expressed by the providing party, and may be used by the Council in the final service specifications used for the contracts, but no organization will be individually identified.

We would like to receive feedback on the following areas (see questions in section 5) and any other comments that you may have. Organizations will have the opportunity to ask clarification questions on the specification should a procurement process be undertaken.

Following this market testing exercise the Council intends, subject to governance to run a commissioning exercise, which would likely include the following key stages (see indicative timeframe in section 4).

1. **Indicative timeframe\***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Date** |
| Review of the current model and engagement with market and residents | February 2021 – May 2021 |
| Tender advert released | June 2021 |
| Deadline for tender | July 2021 |
| Presentation and dialogue/negotiation period | August 2021 |
| Final tender deadline | September 2021 |
| Contract award | October/November 2021 |
| Commencement Date of Contract | 1st April 2022 |

**\*Please note that these dates have not been finalized and are subject to change.**

1. **Market engagement questionnaire**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Question** | **Response** |
| **1.** | How likely are you to submit a tender for the service (please give reasons for your response) | Highly likely  Maybe  Not likely |
| **2.** | Would you consider a network model  Please provide more details if NO/Maybe | Yes  No  Maybe |
| **3.** | A consortium model  Please provide more details if NO/Maybe | Yes  No  Maybe |
| **4.** | Would you consider a lead provider model  Please provide more details if NO/Maybe | Yes  No  Maybe |
| **5.** | If you were to bid for a lead provider model would you be bidding as  Why have you chosen this answer | Lead provider  Sub-contract of a lead provider |
| **6.** | Do you have prior experience of a network model?  Please provide more details if YES | Yes  No |
| **7.** | Do you have prior experience of a consortium model?  Please provide more details if YES | Yes  No |
| **8.** | Have you had prior experience of a lead provider model and if so, in what capacity?  Please provide more details if YES | Yes - lead provider  Yes - sub-contractor  No |
| **9.** | Do you have a building available to use for the purpose of this service in either Camden or Islington? |  |
| **10.** | Name of organization |  |
| **11.** | If your organization would be willing to take part in a further discussion regarding the market engagement, please provide suitable contact details that can be passed on to the commissioning team. |  |

1. **General Information**

Following this market testing exercise Camden Council will consider options for developing the provision in question.

**Please return your completed questionnaire by Friday 12.00pm (midday) 12th March 2021.**

For any other queries or return of the questionnaire

[Anita.DePan@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Anita.DePan@islington.gov.uk)

[David.Walsh@camden.gov.uk](mailto:David.Walsh@camden.gov.uk)