



Pre-Tender Market Engagement

Supporting Families Efficacy Trials – Pilot Project Project Reference: CPD4124020

Authority: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (“the Authority”).

Date Response required: [15:00pm] (GMT) Tuesday 17th January 202

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This Pre-Tender Market Engagement (PTME) seeks information in preparation for the potential procurement of a Supplier (from herein referred to as a “**Potential Supplier**”) to commission a pilot study to test a promising practice model from the Supporting Families Programme. The purpose of this PTME is to:
 - 1.1.1 help define the requirement;
 - 1.1.2 help provide a better understanding of the feasibility of the requirement;
 - 1.1.3 understand the best approach;
 - 1.1.4 understand the capacity of the market to deliver and possible risks involved;
 - 1.1.5 understand the ease with which potential suppliers can identify partner organisations and form consortia to fulfil all requirements of the contract, in particular the practice delivery elements; and
 - 1.1.6 provide the market with an opportunity to ask questions, raise queries and any issues to be addressed at an early stage.
- 1.2 The Authority shall maintain commercial confidentiality of information received during the PTME.
- 1.3 A draft Statement of Requirements is attached separately as ‘Annex A – Draft SOR Supporting Families Efficacy Trials Pilot – PTME’. As this is an early draft, DLUHC reserve the right to amend this document at any time following on from the PTME.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Authority is seeking to commission a pilot study to test a promising practice model from the Supporting Families Programme: psychologically informed key worker practice. The commission will be comprised of two principal elements: (i) practice delivery – where the practice model is manualised and applied in areas taking part in the pilot through training and the recruitment of clinical staff; (ii) evaluation – where the effect of the practice model is tested.
- 2.2 The pilot study has two primary aims: (i) to establish the feasibility of delivering a full randomised controlled trial of the model, and; (ii) to provide indicative evidence of the impact and efficacy the model delivers on family outcomes compared to other models. The project aims to complete by July 2025.
- 2.3 Findings from this project will be used to inform decision making on trial feasibility which could be used to commission a full randomised controlled trial from 2025. Findings will also be used as evidence to provide indications of the impact of the model on keyworker practice and well-being as well as on child and family outcomes such as family functioning and mental health. This will inform understanding of effective systemic practice models and ways of upskilling key workers to support Supporting Families policy development and Care Review recommendations.

3 HIGH LEVEL OUTLINE PROJECT OUTCOMES REQUIRED

- 3.1 This trial will require the supplier to undertake delivery of the psychologically informed keyworker practice model in selected LAs. The supplier will need to establish an agreed and clearly defined model, so that it can be implemented effectively and consistently across LAs and Supporting Families key worker teams involved in the study.
- 3.2 The supplier will need to identify and recruit areas to participate in the pilot, including those that will form the intervention group (5-7 areas delivering the psychologically informed practice model) and the comparison group (5-7 areas that deliver a generic programme model).
- 3.3 They will then need to deliver training and support to the selected intervention group LAs to enable them to implement the model. This will include procuring high-quality accredited training in systemic practice for all key workers delivered by an accredited training partner. The supplier will need to hire systemically trained clinical staff who will be embedded in key worker teams to provide training and consultation to key workers. The supplier will also need to provide management and support to LAs delivering the model throughout the trial and monitor fidelity across LAs to ensure the practice model is being delivered in line with the model definition.
- 3.4 The evaluation supplier will need to design and deliver a one-year pilot impact evaluation alongside an implementation and process evaluation on the psychologically informed keyworker practice model.
- 3.5 This will include gathering data from those participating in the pilot and conducting analysis and reporting results which indicate the impact of the model on key worker practice and wellbeing, and child and family outcomes relevant to the programme.
- 3.6 Results and findings will allow us to assess whether this practice model shows enough promise to be taken forward to a full trial at a later date.
- 3.7 A significant amount of feasibility work has already been completed on psychologically informed keyworker practice. Piloting work has also been undertaken which will inform the design and approach of the trials.
- 3.8 Psychologically informed keyworker practice – to test approaches for using insights from psychology and psychotherapy in practice with families. Some of the root causes of poor outcomes for vulnerable families are driven by a complex interaction of different needs. The hypothesis is that providing support to key workers from clinicians via training, supervision and psychological tools, to build supporting relationships and help families identify strengths at the child, family, service/school and community level can support families with complex needs to develop strategies specific to their needs will strengthen family relationships and make positive change. The trial will provide implementable and well evidenced models of psychologically informed practice than can be implemented across the country.

SOCIAL VALUE:

- 3.9 Of the Social Value policy themes set out in the [Social Value quick reference guide](#), the Authority considers the following policy areas as the most relevant to this contract and the Supplier will be required to deliver social benefits related to them under the Contract:
 - 3.9.1 **Theme Two: Tackling economic inequality. Sub-Criteria for MAC 3.2:** Support innovation and disruptive technologies throughout the supply chain to deliver lower cost and/or higher quality goods and services.
 - 3.9.2 **Theme Five: Wellbeing – Sub-criteria for MAC 6.1:** Demonstrate action to identify and tackle inequality in employment, skills and pay in the contract workforce.

4 OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

- 4.1 Further to the project requirements as outlined in the section above, the Authority is also seeking:
- 4.1.1 We expect the successful supplier to provide regular updates on the progress of the evaluation, and informal insights when they emerge. Formal reporting will be agreed during the setup of the evaluation; as a minimum we would expect a final report that provides an overview of all research activities and reports key findings and insights.
 - 4.1.2 We will be particularly focussed on showing how to practically implement any of the findings with local authorities, so that they can see how to adapt their practices and offer to reflect the results from this study. We will develop a compelling narrative with actionable advice for how they can do this, and the impacts this could deliver for each area.
 - 4.1.3 The project will be reviewed by the independent advisory group, with results and outputs scrutinised in depth before being shared with policy colleagues, local authorities and other government departments.
 - 4.1.4 Study reports will be published on the DLUHC pages of GOV.UK. We aim to publish these reports within three months of their completion and ministerial approval.
 - 4.1.5 Data gathered from the project will be stored by the successful supplier; DLUHC will not have access to the raw outputs. Data will be held securely up to six months after the final report is published, and then destroyed securely.

5 KEY DATES & TENDERING PROCESS

PTME Response deadline	Tuesday 17 th January 2023 (15:00pm)
Deadline to register Interest for PTME online event	Friday 20 th January 2023 (15:00pm)
PTME online event	Wednesday 25 th January 2023 (AM)
Issue of ITT	February/March 2023 (TBC)
Contract Commencement	May/June 2023 (TBC)

- 5.1 If it is decided this service is required, it is anticipated that a procurement may start Feb 2023 with the contract to commence June 2023. These indicative dates are for information purposes only. DLUHC reserve the right to amend these dates at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely on them entirely at their own risk.
- 5.2 The contract is expected to run until the publication of the final report, expected in June 2025.
- 5.3 DLUHC is planning an accompanying, pre-market engagement event which will be held online on Wednesday 25th January 2023 (AM). This will allow suppliers to provide feedback on the requirements and raise clarification questions directly to the project team. Suppliers must express an interest in attending this event no later than 15:00pm on Friday 20th January 2023. This will allow DLUHC to send invitations and provide supplementary information relating to some of the Annexes referenced in the attached specification.
- 5.4 The project will be procured through the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) - RM6126 Research and Insights.
- 5.5 DLUHC will apply filter categories relevant to the requirement to create a supplier shortlist for running further competition within the DPS.

- 5.6 Suppliers are able to apply to join the DPS at any time. During application to join the DPS, suppliers indicate which services they may be able to provide under the DPS.
- 5.7 Please note that new suppliers are able to register with the DPS via the following link and that this process can take at least two weeks (Once you click on the link below, please scroll down to see 'Research and Insights' under Communications Marketplace):
<https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/dps#research>
- 5.8 If you have any questions about the DPS and would like to contact a member of the CCS team please use the links provided on the website above.

6 RESPONSE

- 6.1 Please respond by email to commercialtenders@levellingup.gov.uk with the following by 15:00pm GMT) on Tuesday 17th January 2023 (the "Response Deadline").

- Q1 Is what the Authority asking for clear? Please indicate what further information or detail about the project is required to clarify the requirement.
- Q2 Is there sufficient capacity and expertise in the sector to deliver on these proposals?
- Q3 Would you be interested in bidding for this project?
- Q4 Is this project deliverable in the timeframe proposed?
- Q5 Will it be feasible to identify partner organisations to fulfil the delivery element of the contract? Do you require any support from the Authority in finding organisations to partner with?
- Q6 How long would you need to form any consortia?
- Q7 How much time would you need these tenders to be out in the market to make a successful bid?
- Q8 What, if anything, has the Authority missed or overlooked in setting out their requirement?
- Q9 Is there anything here which is irrelevant, outdated or unnecessary?
- Q10 What would the indicative cost be for this piece of work?
- Q11 Are the proposed Social Value Themes appropriate for this requirement? Please elaborate on your reasons why and/or suggest alternatives that could be applied and why these alternatives would be more relevant? Further information on The Social Value Model, sub-criteria, illustrative examples and relevant reporting metrics can be found here to help inform your response to this question:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940826/Social-Value-Model-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf

7 QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

- 7.1 Potential Suppliers may raise questions or seek clarification regarding any aspect of this PTME document at any time prior to the Response Deadline. Questions must be submitted by email to commercialtenders@levellingup.gov.uk only.

- 7.2 To ensure that all Potential Suppliers have equal access to information regarding this PTME exercise, responses to questions raised by Potential Suppliers will be published in a “Questions and Answers” document, which will also be circulated by email, with updates appearing at regular intervals (approximately two to three working days).
- 7.3 Responses to questions will not identify the originator of the question.
- 7.4 If a Potential Supplier wishes to ask a question or seek clarification without the question and answer being revealed, then the Potential Supplier must state this in their email and provide its justification for withholding the question and any response. If the Authority does not consider that there is sufficient justification for withholding the question and the corresponding response, the Potential Supplier will be invited to decide whether:
 - 7.4.1 the question/clarification and the response should in fact be published; or
 - 7.4.2 it wishes to withdraw the question/clarification.

8 GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 8.1 This PTME will help the Authority to refine the requirements and to understand the potential level of interest in the delivering requirements. It will also aid Potential Supplier’s understanding of the requirements in advance of any formal competitive tender exercise.
- 8.2 The Authority reserves the right to change any information contained within this PTME at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely upon it entirely at their own risk.
- 8.3 The Authority reserves the right not to proceed with a competitive tender exercise after this PTME or to award any contract.
- 8.4 Any and all costs associated with the production of such a response to this PTME must be borne by the Potential Supplier.
- 8.5 No down-selection of Potential Suppliers will take place as a consequence of any responses or interactions relating to this PTME.
- 8.6 The Authority expects that all responses to this PTME will be provided by Potential Suppliers in good faith to the best of their ability in the light of information available at the time of their response.
- 8.7 No information provided by a Potential Supplier in response to this PTME will be carried forward, used or acknowledged in any way for the purpose of evaluating the Potential Supplier, in any subsequent formal procurement process.