#

**Market Testing – Learning Disabilities Floating and Community Support**

**Overview**

Camden Council is reviewing its current Learning Disabilities (LD) floating and community support service, which is due to terminate at the end of June 2024, with a view to deciding whether and how to recommission this provision.

1. **Details of the services**

The floating and community support service offers high quality, flexible and personalised support for people with learning disabilities in one-to-one and group settings, with the key objective of supporting people to live independently in their own home, to develop practical living skills and take part in their local community. The service achieves this by offering a range of strengths based interventions, including but not limited to: low level preventative support; skills development to reduce need for longer term support; wrap around support to manage a crisis; and a shared hours offer to optimise opportunities to socialise and share interests with others. The service requires eligibility for social care support under the Care Act and supports people with a range of needs, from mild to severe learning disabilities and a range of other conditions, such as mental health, autism, behaviour that challenges and social isolation.

The current contract has been running for four years (including a one year extension) and has a further one year extension to run until 30th June 2024. It was commissioned as a locality model with two provders. The Camden Society London (TCS(L)) are the lead provider in Camden South supporting 32 residents, whilst Centre404 (C404) lead in Camden North and support 62 residents. This is an activity-based contract, not a block contract, which means that there are no set hours the Council has pre-paid for and there are no un-used hours. The commissioned hours can therefore fluctuate over time. The total weekly commissioned hours are currently 1019; as South Camden is geographically a smaller locality than North Camden, the difference in weekly commissioned hours is 376.45 and 642.5 respectively. The indicative annual budget for this contract is £1,170,643.

1. **Market testing**

The Council wishes to undertake soft market testing on the possible re-commissioning of the service, 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 organisation 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. Organisations will have the opportunity to ask clarification questions on the specification should a procurement process be undertaken.

Following this market testing exercise the Council may run a commissioning exercise, which would likely include the following key stages.

1. **Indicative timeframe**

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| **Stage** | **Date** |
| Tender advert released | 2nd-6th October 2023 |
| Deadline for tender | 20th November 2023 |
| Notification of decision to tenderers | Jan-Feb 2024 |
| End of standstill period - Award letter to winning tenderer  | Jan-Feb 2024 |
| **Commencement Date of Contract** | 1st July 2024 |

1. **Market Questionnaire**

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| 1. **What is your general level of interest in bidding for the service(s)? (Please briefly explain why below)**
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| * High (very likely to bid)
* Medium (may bid)
* Low (unlikely to bid)
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| 1. **What experience have you had of delivering floating and community for people with learning disablities (PWLD)? Please detail the benefits you have seen and the outcomes you have achieved.**
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| 1. **What is your understanding of the needs of PWLD in Camden?**
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| 1. **Which of the commissioning options listed below do you think would work best for the new model and please explain why?**

**Option 1: Outsourcing (Commission a VCS organisation to deliver the contract)**1. Remain with two separate localities (North/South Camden)
2. Move from two localities to one (covering both North and South Camden)
3. A cross authority model with a local authority such as Islington (for Camden and Islington Residents)

**Option 2: Insourcing (a council contract)**1. The whole service to be delivered by the Council
2. A mixed model with part of the service being delivered by the Council and part of the service being delivered by an external provider
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| 1. **Would you have a preference as to how the service is arranged? See options below and please give reasons for your answers.**
	1. A block contract commissioned via hours
	2. A block contract commissioned via outcomes
	3. Activity based
	4. A combination of activity and block hours
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| 1. **Since the pandemic, provider serivces have faced challenges with the recruitment and retention of staff which has impacted serivce delivery. In your experience, what has worked/ would help to address these issues?**
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| 1. **Do you have experience of developing and implementing a model of shared support hours for residents? If yes please tell us what’s worked/ not worked.**
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| 1. **How could this area of work be used to deliver Social Value to communities, i.e. improvements in the economic, social and/or environmental well-being of the areas?**
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| 1. **How can people who draw on care and support remain connected to their communities and social groups?**
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| 1. **In what ways do you think this service could promote equality and diversity both within the service and to service users? Please share examples of what works in this area from your experience.**
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| 1. **Would you be willing to discuss this work further? If yes, please give details of key contacts and (general) availability if so**.
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1. **General Information**

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

Please submit your completed questionnaire by email to Salome Bryant (salome.bryant@camden.gov.uk ) and copied to David Walsh (david.walsh@camden.gov.uk) **by 2.00pm** **22nd May 2023**.