**Appointment of Evidence & Learning Lead for Tackling Loneliness**

**1. Introduction**

The aim of this appointment is to build on work already underway to understand what works in preventing and tackling loneliness by a range of voluntary sector organisations, academic institutions and other public bodies. A lead organisation or partnership of organisations is now needed to provide coordination and presentation of research and evidence currently available in the public domain and deliver an expansion of this knowledge base. This will help inform policy development inside and outside government.

The scope of this procurement will cover the following objectives and will be undertaken by the lead or in collaboration with members of a consortium. These objectives represent an overview of the methodology sequence proposed for this project, with the dissemination of evidence & learning being our key output.

**2. Activity**

**2.1 Secondary research to synthesize & review existing evidence** on the extent and impact of loneliness on wellbeing and effective interventions to reduce loneliness. Build on and expand the work already undertaken by the What Works Centre for Wellbeing evidence review ([https://whatworkswellbeing.org/loneliness/#revie](https://whatworkswellbeing.org/loneliness/#review)) and encourage greater uptake of the ONS loneliness measure.

**2.2 Primary research to update and expand the evidence available** through the production of new data. This should include qualitative research with those who have both experienced loneliness and those who are operational in tackling loneliness. Data collection may also be captured through existing or developing community wellbeing interventions.

**2.3 Facilitate academics, researchers, commissioners and public sector bodies & policy professionals** to come together to understand strategic and operational evidence gaps and agree priorities for future research, aligning and coordinating quality research activity where possible.

**2.4 Disseminate evidence and learning**, to establish greater learning and better-targeted action on loneliness across sectors. The lead organisation should present information on their own or another stakeholder website), providing links to key data and materials to create acentral repository of information on loneliness and social connectedness.

**3. Outputs & Deliverables**

The supplier will be expected to:

**3.1** Seek to build on the recent evidence review by the What Works Centre for Wellbeing, delivering a document that:

* Takes note of the WWCW’s findings on the limited existing evidence on ‘what works’ that meets the highest evidence standards.
* Within this context, clearly presents what can be said to be the most promising approaches to tackling loneliness (giving context around strength and applicability of the relevant evidence).

**3.2** Seek to support more survey-owners, evaluators and academics to understand and use the ONS loneliness [National Measurement of Loneliness](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/compendium/nationalmeasurementofloneliness/2018)

(where appropriate) and/or support or identify other relevant measures that will lead to the expansion of the loneliness data-base;

**3.3** Undertake primary research to expand the evidence base, e.g.  by undertaking social surveys, action learning workshops, and/or focus groups, preparing case studies from personal experiences of loneliness, and reviewing existing or developing wellbeing interventions.

**3.4** Convene interested parties to meet at least twice a year to discuss research priorities.

**3.5** Deliver an ‘Area of Research’ document, setting out the priority evidence gaps clearly to inform further evidence-building.

**3.6** Improve dissemination of loneliness evidence and awareness of relevant learning across sectors.

**3.7** Create an online central repository bringing together useful information on tackling loneliness, accessible to interested policy-making and service-deliver organisations across sectors.

**3.8** Make proposals for the continued availability of this central repository after the end of the contract.

**3.9** Deliver a  ‘lessons learnt report’ at the end of the contract.

**4. Key Dates & Tendering**

It is anticipated that a procurement may start in **late January/February** with the contract awarded in **March,** and then to commence in **April**. These indicative dates are for information purposes only.

The contract is expected to be for a period of a minimum of one year, with an option to extend for up to five years. This is at the discretion of DCMS and dependant on the success of the programme and the availability of future internal and external funding streams.

**5. General principles of the programme**

The tender bids should set out how the above objectives will be achieved, along with a programme of appropriate activity to disseminate data, information & materials and which reflect the following principles:

* The supplier will be expected to work closely with the in-house Project Team and involve other organisations/external stakeholders where this would be beneficial to the aims of the research.
* Engage businesses, councils, charities and funders in a programme of activity to bring together practitioners and decision-makers to inspire them to act.
* The programme should be representative in terms of geographical reach, urban & rural coverage, inclusive of different cultures, ethnicity and gender.
* The programme should also include a mix of representation from the public and private sectors, the voluntary sector and where appropriate may include private individuals.
* The tender bids should set out how these objectives will be achieved, along with a programme of appropriate activity to disseminate data, information & materials.

**7. VfM** will be achieved through competitive tendering. Suppliers pricing will be benchmarked against rates offered on comparable projects. The Contract will contain performance measures (KPI’s) to ensure contractor performance and achievement of value for money over the life of the contract.

Delivery of the services could be through a range of methods;

* A single contractor
* A single contractor operating as a lead supplier with a supply chain with different sub-contractors supplying different specialist components of the requirement
* A consortium including a mix of suppliers with the required skill sets

**8. Response**

**We would be interested in your responses to the following questions - go into as much detail as you have time for.**

Q1 Would you be interested in bidding for this project?

Q2 What is your recommended timeframe to deliver this project?

Q3 Are the project requirements clear do you have any ideas about how DCMS output requirements could be effectively delivered ?

Q4 What, if anything, has the Department missed or overlooked in setting out their requirements?

Q5 What would the indicative cost be for each of the requirements above (in 3) based on an annual programme ?

**9. Contact Details**

Please e mail Andrew Sternberg (Commercial Business Partner) on [andrew.sternberg@](mailto:andrew.sternberg@dcms.gov.uk)culture.gov.uk with your response to the questions above by Monday 20th January.

Please provide a named point of contact in your organisation, with phone number and email address, who can answer questions in relation to your response..

Depending on the volume of responses DCMS may;

* circulate further pre-tender market engagement material,
* set up phone conference sessions either individually or as a group call

as a minimum respondents will receive access to the OJEU Notice once approval has been given for a competition to go ahead.