

Project Ref: T18-005
RCGP Research about the Future of General Practice
Expressions of Interest
25 May 2018

Overview of RCGP

The RCGP is the professional membership body for family doctors in the UK and overseas. We are committed to improving patient care, clinical standards and GP training; approximately 50,000 GPs are members. Our main building is 30 Euston Square. For more information see:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/about-us.aspx>

The College is a registered Charity established under Royal Warrant. We are not a Contracting Authority within the meaning of The 2014 Public Contracts Directive (2014/24/EU) (sometimes referred to as Public Contracts Regulations) or the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015 S.I.2015/102. We are not, therefore, covered by The Public Sector Remedies Directive 55 Council Directive 89/665/EEC of 21.12.1989. **If you have any concerns regarding this you should not respond to this invitation to submit expressions of interest.**

Project Background and Description

The RCGP is planning a substantial piece of work around the future of general practice. There are several imperatives for this work:

- The College has set itself the strategic aim of shaping the future of General Practice. There is a widespread desire amongst members for the College to be a thought leader and to influence the delivery of others.
- The membership of the RCGP voted for a 'Shaping the future of general practice' to be one of the policy and campaigns priorities for 2018/19;
- The RCGP last considered this in depth five years ago with '[The 2022 GP: A vision for general practice in the future NHS](#)', which is due an update - the pace of change within society and the UK's healthcare systems is such that the challenges and solutions identified 5 years ago are already looking dated in some respects; and
- We know from our stakeholder engagement that there is a desire for the College to be more explicit in how it sees the future role of general practitioners.

In order to inform the RCGP's work on the future of general practice, it is important that we undertake research in order to ensure we are:

- developing the right themes given a range of future scenarios for primary care in the UK.
- supporting horizon scanning around the future of the GP/Patient relationship.
- providing insight into the career expectations of the GP workforce.

The RCGP has members across the UK, so it is vital that this is a four-nation piece of work. Due to the devolved nature of healthcare, this may require some consideration of how to make this relevant and appropriate for all.

Approach

We expect to engage and develop the vision for the future around the following themes with potential topic areas:

- The role of the GP
- The GP in the wider practice team
- The GP in the wider health care system

The RCGP is keen to hear from suppliers regarding proposed approaches.

At a minimum, this project is likely to include qualitative work with RCGP members, as well as a patient-centred element. However, we are keen for this project to be wide-ranging and would appreciate more elements, as allowed by the budget and time constraints. It is, however, unlikely that this will involve a survey of members, as we have several member surveys and would prefer to avoid survey fatigue.

Possible research subjects could include members, patients, wider practice team staff and/or key stakeholders (such as Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chairs or Sustainability Transformation Partnership leads).

The research is more likely to be focused on testing ideas than generating them, although the RCGP would be open to views on alternative approaches to those we develop and propose.

Sample

The RCGP has over 50,000 members, who are or have been GPs. It is possible to communicate with members in several ways:

- As part of our regular newsletters
- Through social media
- On our website
- Via targeted emails or calls (for those with the appropriate permissions)

As well as reaching GPs using our membership database, it is likely possible to recruit people who are part of the wider practice team by engaging members in the research.

This information is provided to ensure it can be considered within proposed approaches if needed. There is no requirement to use this sample, and suppliers should not be limited by this as other groups may be relevant to the research.

Process

As suppliers may propose substantially different approaches, this will be a multi-stage process.

1. Suppliers are invited to submit expressions of interest
2. Of these, up to 5 of the highest scoring will be invited to submit an invitation to tender (ITT) response.
3. Of the ITT responses, up to 3 of the highest scoring will be invited to a discussion and clarification meeting

The estimated timeline for the tendering process is as follows:

Activity	Date / time
Deadline for submission of expressions of interest	12:00 noon, 6 th June 2018
Shortlisted suppliers (up to 5) invited to Invitation to Tender (ITT)	8 June 2018
Deadline for submission of ITT responses	09:00, 25 June 2018
Shortlisted suppliers from ITT stage (up to 3) invited to discussion and clarification meeting	26 th June 2018
Discussion and clarification meeting	28 th - 29 th June 2018
Contract award with preferred supplier	w/c 2 nd July 2018
Contract start date	w/c 9 th July 2018

Budget

The research budget is £50,000 - £65,000 (excluding VAT). Although expressions of interest do not need to provide a detailed costing, they should confirm that the proposed approach would be achievable within this budget.

Timing

This project has a tight timeline. The RCGP must present a draft of its paper about the future of general practice (with its key themes and messages) at its November 2018 Council, which means research must be finished by the end of September 2018 at the latest. It would be

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extremely helpful to see outputs as early as possible, which might mean delivering results from different modules as they become available, and/or delivering interim results.

It may be possible to deliver final reports after this date, as long as the RCGP team is equipped to use the findings and results by the end of September 2018 in its work for the November 2018 Council.

It is envisaged that the successful supplier will be appointed by w/c 9th July 2018 , which gives up to three months for the substantive part of this project

Criteria for expressions of interest

These should be brief, focusing on an outline of the supplier's proposed approach, with a short indication of relevant experience. Suppliers expressions of interest response should be no more than four sides of A4.

At this stage, suppliers will be shortlisted using the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Meeting the research objectives	40%
Suitability of proposed approach(es)	40%
Relevant experience (particularly of working with membership organisations or GPs/healthcare professionals)	20%

Submission of Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest **must include a contact name, number and email address** for your organisation and should be uploaded to the RCGP's Supplier Portal at <https://rcgp.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html> by no later than **12 noon, 6th June 2018**.

The RCGP reserves the rights to cancel this process. By issuing this Expressions of interest document, entering into clarification communications with potential suppliers or by having any other form of communication with potential suppliers, the RCGP is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with you or any other potential supplier. RCGP will have no liability for any losses, costs or expenses caused to you as a result of such termination, suspension, amendment or variation.