

# Expression of interest

# Title: Children of the 2020’s

**Project reference:** DFERPPU 2019/039

**Deadline for expressions of interest:** 07/08/2020

## Summary

Expressions of interest are sought to undertake the design and delivery of the first panel of a new longitudinal study, the Education and Outcomes Panel Study (EOPS). EOPS is an observational study that will comprise 4 staggered panels, A-D, which will each include 5 waves of survey data collection and administrative data linkage. The panels will cover phases of life that are critical to DfE policy from Early Years through to Higher Education. **This EOI is specifically to invite expressions of interest for EOPS – A (Children of the 2020’s)**, the first panel which will collect data from parents of children who are age approximately 9 months and follow them until ages 5/6 i.e. the earliest years through to primary school. Whilst there will be synergies between the various panel of EOPS, there is no fundamental interdependence and Children of the 2020’s is a stand alone project.

## Background

The Department for Education has an excellent track record of managing high-quality longitudinal studies which have been used effectively to influence policies affecting children and their families. The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) 1 and 2 have provided the Department for Education and other government departments with a wealth of rich data suitable for many purposes. Studies with an early years focus that the Department has led include the EPPSE (Effective Pre-School, Primary and Secondary Education) project, SEED (Study of Early Education and Development) and CEYSP (Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents). The data from these studies have been used extensively to provide analyses which have contributed to policy design, briefing, decision-making, analytical modelling and Spending Reviews. We plan to build on the success of these studies by undertaking a new longitudinal study of children born in the 2020s to provide up to date evidence on the learning and development of young children which will inform future policy making.

## Research aims and objectives

The aim of EOPS is to supply a high standard of statistical, longitudinal evidence including analyses to improve our understanding of which factors help explain variations in outcomes and when they become important. Children of the 2020’s will collect data to understand and control for family history, home environment (including familial relationships), use of ECEC (Early Childhood Education and Care) and other early years, child and family services (including use of post-natal and other health related services), personal characteristics/traits, and experiences/life events. The key objectives of the Children of the 2020’s study will be to provide evidence for policy areas relating to;

* babies and infants
* early childhood education and care
* primary school
* disadvantage

Within the ECEC area, we would ideally like to collect data on the quality and characteristics of the provision at attended childcare/education settings but this presents methodological challenges. Further details will be provided on this in the Invitation to Tender and we would like contractors to address this in their full bids at that stage.

The broad areas outlined represent known current interests but a further objective of the survey will also be to address emerging and prospective policy interests within the age range of the study. Furthermore, where consent is given, we will be seeking to maximise value from the study by linkage with a range of government datasets including those from Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Care. We will continue to track the cohort in administrative data after the final wave of the study.

## Methodology and requirements

The Children of the 2020’s study will utilise a random probability sampling approach. We anticipate requiring a first wave sample of approximately 8500. The target participant group are parents of babies born in England that are as close to 9 months old as possible at first fieldwork contact. Once established the cohort will be revisited each subsequent wave, for a total of 5 waves. It is envisaged that the first wave and at least one subsequent wave will be wholly face to face with the remaining waves a mixture of face to face, phone and web survey. Following initial investigations we anticipate using HMRC’s Child Benefit Records as the sample frame. However we are aware of issues with representativeness of higher income households in this dataset, and have investigated solutions, but bidders will be invited to address in detail at the invitation to tender stage.

The overall requirement of the contractor for this project will be to work with the Department to lead the development, set up and execution of this new longitudinal study which will be a flagship evidence gathering tool for the Department over the coming years.

**The key work strands will be as follows:**

1. Sample design and preparation (including oversampling/boosting of disadvantaged and minority groups)
2. Questionnaire/instrument design and testing
3. Piloting of key elements of the study
4. Mainstage fieldwork, data collection and attrition strategy across 5 waves of the study
5. Production of high-quality datasets and corresponding technical reports and supporting documentation for each wave (full research reports will be commissioned separately)
6. Development of a data dissemination strategy within and outside of government to maximise the utility of the data collected

## Indicative commissioning timings

* Deadline for EOIs – 11.59 pm on 07/08/2020
* Invitations to tender issued – w/c 17/08/2020
* Deadline for ITT submission – w/c 05/10/2020
* Placeholder for bidder interviews (if required) – w/c 26/10/2020 & w/c 02/11/2020
* Inception meeting placeholder – w/c 16/11/2020

## Indicative design and first wave survey timings

* Project design and set up – Nov/Dec 2020 – March 21
* Pilot - April 2021
* Main stage w1 (dependent on pilot findings) – June-Oct 2021
* Outputs - Nov/Dec 2021

**Please note all timings are subject to change as a consequence of the covid-19 pandemic. Main stage fieldwork timings may also change depending on agreed design and approach with the appointed contractor.**

## Assessment criteria

Bidders’ responses will be evaluated using the following criteria, with each criterion having an equal weight with regard to scoring.

* Understanding of the Department’s requirements including an outline of the proposed approach to conducting the research.
* Technical and professional ability to design and develop a complex longitudinal study. This will include expertise in survey design and methodology, e.g. probability sampling, achieving high response rates, estimated power of survey
* Expertise and subject knowledge regarding health, development and learning during infancy, the early years, the first years of primary school and related policies. This will include knowledge and experience of developing research instruments to measure outcomes in these areas.
* Capacity to deliver the work to time and budget. This will include evidence of delivering large scale, complex surveys (ideally within the early years area).

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| Mark | Description |
| 0 | Fails to meet the criteria |
| 1 | Meets some of the criteria |
| 2 | Meets most of the criteria |
| 3 | Fully meets the criteria |
| 4 | Exceeds the criteria |

CVs and references are not required at this stage.

Expressions of interests submitted must be no more than 1000 words overall. Please do not include website links or references. Anything longer than 1000 words will be disregarded.

Collaborative/ consortia expressions of interest are welcome and may be advisable to score highly across the criteria.

We will produce a short Q&A during the EOI, with responses to any questions asked. Questions will be anonymised and any commercially sensitive information removed. Should you wish to ask a question and/or receive a copy of this note, please email [david.bayliss@education.gov.uk](mailto:david.bayliss@education.gov.uk) and [simon.bailey@education.gov.uk](mailto:simon.bailey@education.gov.uk).

| **Closing date for EOIs: 11.59 pm on 07/08/2020**  **Send your EOI form to:** [**david.bayliss@education.gov.uk**](mailto:david.bayliss@education.gov.uk) **and** [**simon.bailey@education.gov.uk**](mailto:simon.bailey@education.gov.uk) |
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## How to submit an expressions of interest

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered to be invited to tender. To do so, please complete the ‘EOI form 2018’ form which can be found under attachments in the ContractsFinder listing. A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback is however available on request.

All contracts are let on the basis of the Department’s Terms & Conditions, a copy is available attached to the ContractsFinder listing. You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

By submitting an Expression of Interest the Department is not bound in any way and does not have to accept any submission that does not meet the requirements set out within this document, or where a decision is taken to not continue the with procurement exercise.

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