

# Expression of interest

# Research to examine the need for a toolkit to support Part 4 of “Keeping children safe in education”

**Project reference: 2018098**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: 16th April 2019 at midday**

## Summary

Expressions of interest are sought to undertake research to identify if schools need help with implementing Part 4 of *Keeping children safe in education* and, if so, whether a toolkit could be designed to fulfil those needs. Production of such a toolkit is not part of the project.

## Background

The department publishes statutory [guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741314/Keeping_Children_Safe_in_Education__3_September_2018_14.09.18.pdf) designed to keep children safe in education. The guidance is split into five sections and this research relates to Part 4 - Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff.

The department has soft intelligence from local authority designated officers (LADOs) and others that the internal processes followed differ substantially between schools and colleges in the event of an allegation against a teacher or member of staff and are sometimes escalated (drawing in others) before basic background work is done. The department would like to explore whether schools and colleges would benefit from clarification and more guidance on the recommended process, and this research will inform whether there is appetite within providers for the department to develop such a toolkit and, if so, what would be helpful to include.

## Research aims

The main aims of this research are to:

* Assess the approaches used by schools and colleges once they receive an allegation against a teacher or member of staff in terms of how they interpret the guidance and the extent to which this varies.
* Identify whether schools and colleges would benefit from revised guidance accompanied by a toolkit for Part 4 of *Keeping children safe in education.*

## Methodology

### Data collection method

There is wide variation in the types of allegations against staff so, rather than asking schools and colleges about the process they followed in specific case(s), it will be more beneficial to ask them about a consistent set of scenarios. The proposal is to develop a number of scenarios (of different severity) and ask schools and colleges to explain the process they would follow and the different trigger points for seeking engagement with organisations outside the provider e.g. members of the multi-agency safeguarding hub. The department will work with the contractor, local authorities and other experts to create 4 or 5 scenarios that would range from issues that would not reach the threshold for LADO involvement to an example which clearly crosses the threshold.

Asking schools and colleges to explain their processes for a limited number of scenarios will allow us to understand the level of consistency of their interpretations and approaches and allow us to explore if there are areas where they need more help and, if so, what they find helpful. This information will help DfE to decode whether a toolkit is required and, if so, which elements should be included.

The department believes that the interviews could be conducted by telephone.

#### Sample

It is likely that processes used if allegations are made against staff will differ depending on a number of factors including; size, phase, type of school/college and location, and whether or not there is experience of having dealt with an actual accusation against staff. Although it is impossible to achieve a representative sample for all these factors, they will be considered in the selection of schools and colleges.

This research is designed to inform whether we need to develop a toolkit rather than to provide a robust representative view to cover all factors. The sample will therefore require up to 30 interviews, but the contract would be designed to have a break at 20 if no new evidence was being found.

## Timing

* Deadline for EOIs – 16th April Midday
* Issue ITT – 17th / 18th April
* Deadline for bids – 1st May - midday
* Award contract 8th May
* Begin fieldwork in June with all interviews completed before the end of the summer term
* Final report due August

## Assessment criteria

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the following criteria:

* Understanding of the Department’s requirement.
* Capacity to develop an appropriate methodology and reporting approach.
* Evidence of experience of the proposed methods to be used.
* Expertise in child safeguarding and experience of discussing such issues in an education context.

**Each one of these criteria has equal weighting.**

* Expressions of interests submitted must be no more than 750 words – anything longer will be disregarded.

| **Closing date for EOIs: Midday 16th April 2019**  **Send your EOI form to: Robert.cirin@education.gov.uk** |
| --- |

## 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 NEW EOI Form which can be found under attachments. 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 and Conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eoi-guide). You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

© Crown copyright 2019