**Proposed strategic partnership for the delivery of services within the Children’s and Families Directorate- specialist schools, children’s secure homes, services for vulnerable young people, and Family learning and employment services.**

Birmingham City Council is interested in assessing the market to establish the viability of developing a long-term strategic partnership with a single organisation to deliver services to Children and Families across all geographical locations of Birmingham. This will require the provider to co-design the services with Children, Young People, Families, and other partners. The scope of these services is likely to include:

* Special schools (including Social and emotional mental health needs and for neuro diverse children and young people)
* Children’s homes – including secure homes or schools
* Family learning and employment services, including developing childcare provision or access to provision
* Services for vulnerable young people, children, and families

This pre-market engagement is being used to assess the market appetite and ability for organisations to provide the full range of services as required in Birmingham. Please be aware this partnership is intended to be long term and may have up to a potential ten-year term.

**Essential criteria/experience the provider must meet/have:**

* Potential providers must have the experience and capability to deliver the full range of services described. Potential providers must already have a footprint of delivery in Birmingham. In addition, they must be able to meet the following criteria, and have a proven ability to provide the following:
  + Employment support and advice (including those furthest away from the labour market)
  + Family learning and support
  + Children’s homes and education (into secure settings such as YOIs)
* Have an existing Multi academy trust which delivers special education
* Proven ability to secure funding and delivered services through mechanisms like the combined authorities and for local NHS ICB or other providers
* Ability to lever in funding from sources that the council cannot access
* Proven experience of changing and improving services in response to those with lived experience

Birmingham City Council wishes to invite suppliers to submit responses in regards this Soft Market Testing exercise for delivery of a range of services across the Children’s and Families directorate, please see attached a questionnaire and supplier feedback form, please submit this as part of your response.

Please note this soft market testing exercise has been issued as an information seeking exercise and is not part of a procurement process. There is no guarantee of any procurement activity taking place following this exercise.

The Council will be using its free to use e-tendering system (in-tend) for the administration of this SMT exercise and suppliers must register with the system to be able to download the SMT document and provide a response. If you wish to provide a response to this SMT exercise please click on the following link to access [https://in-](https://in-tendhost.co.uk/birminghamcc/) [tendhost.co.uk/birminghamcc/](https://in-tendhost.co.uk/birminghamcc/) and submit your details to register. You will then be sent details on how to log on which will enable you to download all relevant documentation.

The deadline for responses is 18th November 2022 which should be returned via the 'in-tend' system <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/birminghamcc>

If you are unable to register with In-tend or have any questions or problems on how to use this website please email us at: [cps@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:cps@birmingham.gov.uk).

**Questions for providers-**

**Please send your response to this PIN by answering the questions below and providing your feedback, please note we have a maximum 400-word limit per question response**

1. Would this opportunity be of interest to your company/organisation? please state why
2. Are you able to provide all the services required?
3. Do you have knowledge and experience of providing these services to local people in Birmingham?
4. Please let us know your ideas about how these services could work, and anyway in which the services could be improved.
5. Do you already provide these services to other organisations? If so, please state where
6. When would you be able to start providing such services & do you have capacity?
7. Tell us about how you have changed your services in response to children, young people, or family’s feedback, how do you involve those with lived experience to shape your services?
8. What do you think would make a successful strategic partnership?
9. Please explain how you currently work with children and young people and how you would apply this in Birmingham to the services required
10. What’s your knowledge of how similar services are provided in Birmingham?
11. What do you anticipate being the main issues/risks with the strategic partnership?
12. Are you able to provide an average cost for similar services that you currently deliver?
13. How confident are you in being able to secure & leverage funding from alternative sources, do you have any outlined already?
14. What procurement process do you think best suits this market?- for example, Open tender, or restricted process, please explain your response
15. Are there any other similar services that you can provide that are not listed in the potential scope of this market engagement?