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**Market Testing – Learning Disabilities Floating and Community Support**

**Overview**

Camden Council is reviewing its current Learning Disabilities Floating and Community Support service, with a view to deciding whether and how to recommission this provision.

1. **Details of the services**

The floating and community support service offers high quality, flexible and personalised support for people with learning disabilities in one-to-one and group settings, with the key objective of supporting people to live independently in their own home, to develop practical living skills and take part in their local community. The service achieves this by offering a range of strengths-based interventions, including but not limited to: low level preventative support; skills development to reduce need for longer term support; wrap around support to manage a crisis; and a shared hours offer to optimise opportunities to socialise and share interests with others. The service requires eligibility for social care support under the Care Act and supports people with a range of needs, from mild to severe learning disabilities and a range of co-occurring other conditions, such as mental health, autism, behaviour that challenges and social isolation.

This service was commenced on 1st July 2019 and is due toend mid- late 2025. Centre404 (C404) is the lead provider delivering support across Camden North/South to around 98 residents. As this is an activity-based contract, and not a block contract, there are no set hours the Council has pre-paid for and there are no un-used hours. This means the commissioned hours can therefore fluctuate over time. Currently the total weekly commissioned hours are estimated to be between 1,300- 1,400.

Our ambitions for the new contract, should we recommission, are to:

* Maximise the benefits of the current offer (as stated above).
* Support people with learning disabilities (PWLD) to make friends and reduce loneliness.
* Tackle obesity.
* Improve the uptake of Cancer screenings for PWLD.
* Improve employment outcomes for PWLD.

The indicative annual budget for this contract is £1,500,000.

1. **Market testing**

The Council wishes to undertake soft market testing on the possible re-commissioning of the service, and therefore would welcome the views of providers on the questions set out below.

Interested parties will not be prejudiced by any response or failure to respond to this soft market testing and a response to this notice does not guarantee any invitation to participate in any future public procurement process that the Council may conduct.

This notice does not constitute a call for competition to procure any services for the Council and the Council is not bound to accept any proposals offered. The Council is not liable for any costs, fees or expenses incurred by any party participating in the soft market testing exercise. Any procurement of any services by the Council in due course will be carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Any responses provided will not be treated as commercially confidential, unless expressed by the providing party, and may be used by the Council in the final service specifications used for the contracts, but no organisation will be individually identified.

We would like to receive feedback on the following areas (see questions in section 4) and any other comments that you may have. Organisations will have the opportunity to ask clarification questions on the specification should a procurement process be undertaken.

Following this market testing exercise the Council may run a commissioning exercise, which would likely include the following key stages.

1. **Indicative timeframe**

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| **Stage** | **Date** |
| Tender advert released | February/March 2025 |
| Deadline for tender | April/May 2025 |
| Notification of decision to tenderers | July 2025 |
| End of standstill period - Award letter to winning tenderer | Late July 2025 |
| **Commencement Date of Contract** | October 2025 |

1. **Market Questionnaire**

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| 1. **What is your general level of interest in bidding for the service? (Please briefly explain why below)** |
| * High (very likely to bid) * Medium (may bid) * Low (unlikely to bid) |
| 1. **What experience do you have delivering floating and community support for the following groups:**  * **People with learning disabilities (PWLD)** * **People with autism only** * **People with co-occurring learning disabilities and autism**   **Please detail the benefits you have seen and the outcomes you have achieved.** |
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| 1. **What is your understanding of the needs of PWLD in Camden?** |
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| 1. **What is your understanding of the needs of autistic people in Camden?** |
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| 1. **Which of the commissioning options listed below do you think would work best for the new model and please explain why?**   **Option 1: Outsourcing (Commission a VCS organisation to deliver the contract)**   1. Two locality providers (North/South Camden) 2. One provider (covering both North and South Camden) 3. A cross authority model with another local authority   **Option 2: Insourcing (a council contract)**   1. The whole service to be delivered by the Council. 2. A mixed model with part of the service being delivered by the Council (as an equity approach to meet the needs of those most vulnerable) and part of the service being delivered by an external provider (for those less vulnerable)   Should you wish to offer an alternative to these options, please use the space below to tell us. |
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| 1. **Would you have a preference as to how the service is commissioned? See options below and please give reasons for your answers.**     1. A block contract commissioned via hours.    2. A block contract commissioned.    3. Activity based.    4. A combination of activity and block hours. |
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| 1. **For the financial modelling of the new contract, please can you advise:**     1. What would a sustainable unit cost per hour be?    2. How should we account for non-contact time (e.g., admin/ travel) within the unit cost to make it sustainable? |
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| 1. **Since the pandemic, provider services have faced challenges with the recruitment and retention of staff which has impacted service delivery. In your experience, what has worked/ would help to address these issues?** |
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| 1. **Do you have experience of developing and implementing a weight management programme for PWLD. If yes, please tell us what worked/ did not work.** |
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| 1. **How could this area of work be used to deliver Social Value to communities, i.e. improvements in the economic (apprenticeships and paid work placements) social and/or environmental well-being of the areas?** |
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| 1. **How can people who draw on care and support remain connected to their communities and social groups to reduce social isolation?** |
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| 1. **In what ways do you think a LD and Autism offer could promote equality, diversity and inclusion both within the service and for people who draw on care and support? Please share examples of what works in this area from your experience.** |
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| 1. **Please tell us about any experience you have of supporting PWLD or Autism into sustainable employment.** |
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| 1. **Would you be willing to discuss this work further? If yes, please give details of key contacts and (general) availability if so**. |
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1. **General Information**

Following this market testing exercise Camden Council will consider options for developing the provision in question.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by email to Salome Bryant ([salome.bryant@camden.gov.uk](mailto:salome.bryant@camden.gov.uk) ) and copied to David Walsh ([david.walsh@camden.gov.uk](mailto:david.walsh@camden.gov.uk)) **by 5.00pm 12th**  **July 2024**.