

**Proposed re-tender of the Mental Health Employment Service**

The Council is proposing to re-tender the Mental Health Employment Support Service for Camden residents.

The service will provide targeted support for people with severe and common mental ill health, to help them find and sustain competitive paid employment using an evidence-based Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model. This model has been recognised as the most effective way to support people with mental ill health to gain and keep paid employment.

The model has two components: a high fidelity IPS model integrated with secondary care and an adapted IPS model integrated with primary care, Job Centre Plus, and self-referrals.

The Service will deliver against Camden’s Local Care Strategy outcomes for Community Resilience in Mental Health:

* I am able to take part in meaningful activities that promote wellbeing, such as education, training, volunteering and employment
* I am able to access targeted help when I need it to improve my mental and physical wellbeing and strengthen my recovery
* I know how to manage my own health better and how to get support when I need it
* The resilience network reduces demand for statutory care and promotes equality for all of Camden’s communities

**Aims of the Service**

The overall aims of the service is to provide targeted personalized employment support for people experiencing mental ill health in order to achieve the following:

* paid competitive employment in a fulfilling sustainable way
* gain financial independence
* recover more rapidly and effectively from their mental illness
* to improve their general health and wellbeing

The rationale for this service, is when residents are supported to meaningfully participate in employment, it effectively delays and mitigates the use of statutory services.

**Background**

This is not a statutory service but will have a positive impact on people who have experienced mental ill health. Over recent years national and international evidence has highlighted that the IPS model delivers the best employment support outcomes, especially for those with more complex needs.

IPS defines competitive employment as a job that any person can apply for regardless of disability status. These jobs may be full or part time. Workers in these positions should earn at least minimum wage and receive similar wages and benefits as their co‐workers.

The employment service will advance equality and foster good relations for service users by:

* Increased numbers of people with mental health problems securing competitive paid employment
* Improvement in the national measure of employment for the most complex
* Improved job sustainment when employment has been gained with support from the service
* Increased numbers of local employers engaged and improved attitudes from employers towards mental health
* Improved self-reported wellbeing measures
* Effective in work support that enables people to retain jobs

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

The Council collects, holds and processes a considerable amount of information, including personal information about residents, people we provide services to, staff, and other people. We process personal information to enable us to provide the whole range of services the council undertakes, whether on our own or in partnership with other agencies. The council has a duty to treat that information responsibly, keep it safe and secure, and process it correctly and proportionately.

Suppliers’ who contract with the Council will also need to demonstrate that their organisations meet GDPR standards during appropriate stages of the procurement process.

**Contract**

The service will commence on or around 1 April 2022 for an initial contract term of five years with an option to extend for a further year. The annual contract value for the service will be £500,000, which is made up of a block payment and outcomes-based payment of a maximum of £150,000.

As part of the development of the procurement approach for this tender, we wish to gather the views of providers on the proposed model and would therefore like your feedback to the questions below.

Organisations will also have the opportunity to ask questions on the specifications once the procurement process is underway.

**QUESTIONS**

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| 1. What is your organisation’s level of interest in bidding for this service?  |
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| 2. Are you delivering a similar service at present or within the last 5 years?  |
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| 3. If so, what services are you delivering and how are these funded/contracted? How did you adapt to change (increase in service demand / financial or other pertinent changes?  |
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| 4. What would you see as the key delivery challenges and service development opportunities for this service? |
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| 5. Can you comment on the feasibility of delivering the service against the budgets above? In addition, do you see other opportunities to lever in any external funding? |
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| 6. Camden Council is an accredited employer with the Living Wage Foundation. We encourage organisations delivering services on our behalf to pay their staff at least the London Living Wage. Please confirm whether your organisation is accredited with the Living Wage Foundation? |
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| 7. In what ways do you think you could deliver improved Social Value to Camden communities through this service ie improvements in the economic, social and/or environmental wellbeing of residents.  |
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| 8. Would you be willing to meet with us to discuss your views about this procurement further? If so please provide contact details.  |
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| 9. Do you have any other comments |
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We would be grateful if responses to these questions could be submitted to Morelda Nanton, Commissioning Manager by 12.00pm, 8 October 2021.

Responses should be sent by email to morelda.nanton@camden.gov.uk

Following this market testing exercise, the Council expects to run a procurement exercise, subject to approval.

**Note**

Interested parties will not be prejudiced by any response or failure to respond to this soft market testing/sounding exercise. 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/sounding 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 and may be used by the Council in the final service specifications used for the contracts but no organisation will be individually identified.

**End of questionnaire**