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# Prior Information Notice

For

**Commissioning of Accommodation and Specialised Support for Care Leavers who are over 18 and Not in Education Employment or Training**

Northamptonshire Children’s Trust

# Section 1: Introduction

## General Requirements

* 1. The purpose of this document is to briefly explain to suppliers the business and technical requirements and the expected scope of a potential innovative project for Accommodation and Specialised Support for Care Leavers at risk of homelessness in order that suppliers can explain the relevance of products, services, and their experience to the requirements.
  2. **Please note:** this PIN is **a** request for formal Expression of Interest. This document does not form any part of an invitation to tender but may lead to a procurement process. Any supplier responding to this PIN is doing so to help develop a procurement process that is accessible to the market.

## Confidentiality and Freedom of Information (FOI)

* 1. **Please note:** all information included in this PIN is confidential and only for the recipients’ knowledge. No information included in this document or in discussions connected to it may be disclosed to any other party without prior written authorisation.
  2. All responses will be treated confidentially. However, please be aware that we are subject to the disclosure requirements of the FOI Act and that potentially any information we hold is liable to disclosure under that Act. For this reason, we strongly advise that any information you consider to be confidential is labelled as such. In the event that a request is subsequently made for disclosure under FOI the request will be dealt with in accordance with the legislation.

## Background

Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT) have 271 young people who are 18 years-old and above that are currently assessed to need accommodation and varying amounts of commissioned support hours. Of these 271 care leavers, 142 were Children in Care (CiC) and 129 were Children Separated from their families (UASC).

* 1. Our current pathway for this cohort in the main is support through an Independent Supported accommodation route, some young people have a staying put arrangement and some young people will transition to their own accommodation with support from their residential home through a staying close model and we have some shared lives placements.
  2. In anticipation of a Care Leavers offer review, NCT is looking at developing an innovative project to support young people at risk of homelessness using an innovative model, different from the services provided currently by the providers on our Northamptonshire Independent Supported Accommodation and Support Services for Young People Aged 16-18 Framework. The model will work with Young People who are over 18 years-old and Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and are therefore able to apply for Universal Credit, including Housing Benefit. The provider will be the landlord and all accommodation costs will be covered by Housing Benefit with no accommodation costs being paid by NCT. This includes all costs associated with maintaining fittings and fixtures.
  3. The provider will have suitably qualified and experienced staff based on site to work directly with the young people to gain independence skills, support them securing employment, education or training and move into their own tenancy where the provider will continue to support the young people using a floating support arrangement. The provider will offer support tailored to the young person’s needs. There will also be a requirement to have staff present on site overnight.
  4. Therefore, the provider will need to have a suitable property, the facility to set up Rental agreements with young people and to provide the support to young people on how to claim Universal Credit, including Housing Benefit.
  5. As NCT will not be paying accommodation costs, the provider of this service needs to operate a model that meets the criteria for housing benefit to be paid; therefore, the provider must be a registered provider of social housing - [Register and de-register as a provider of social housing - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-and-de-register-as-a-provider-of-social-housing)
  6. When the young person has secured employment, whilst they will no longer be eligible for Housing Benefit, rent will not be charged; the provider will support the young person to move on to their own tenancy.
  7. We would like to invite Expressions of Interest for innovative provision for a three year period. The outcomes for the model will include development of independence skills, securing employment, education or training, and securing and sustaining own tenancies.
  8. This model can be based in the North or the West of Northamptonshire.
  9. Potential/expected bidders should have experience working with this cohort with young people, delivering a similar service.
  10. The Expressions of Interest submitted will be considered against the following so that we can broaden the market and bring in innovative approaches:
* Small and Medium Enterprises with a background in innovation in people’s services
* A track record in transformation and culture change
* A verifiable track record in delivering successful outcomes for individuals and communities in people’s services
* Commercial and operational capacity to deliver the model
* Training and development experience

## PIN Timetable

* 1. Please read this document and if you feel that your organisation is able to contribute to this exercise please prepare an Expression of Interest (EOI) and return, via email to [procurement@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@northnorthants.gov.uk) by **17.00hrs Tuesday 19th April 2022.** The EOI should cover, as a minimum the criteria set out above and below.
  2. Potential responders will not be prejudiced in any future procurement processes by either responding or not responding to this PIN.

# Section 2: Minimum Requirements

## Our Requirements

Northamptonshire Children’s Trust is requiring a sea change in how we deliver services to Care Leavers. We are looking for innovation proposals that would address all or most of these issues:

* A focus on supporting young people transition to adulthood
* Supporting young people sustaining employment, education or training
* Supporting young people successfully moving to their own tenancy and sustain it
  1. Therefore, the outcomes of this project will sit within the Outcomes of Northamptonshire Children’s Trust, with KPIs to be developed further at point of writing the contract.

## Care Leavers feel ready to live independently (Enjoying good health and wellbeing)

## Care Leavers are in EET (Fulfilling potential)

## Care Leavers sustain their own tenancy without accruing debt (develop resilience)

## Care Leavers develop positive relationships (Live Safe, Be Safe)

* 1. The required criteria for providers is described in Section 3.

Funding is being made available for a 3 year period to commence no later than September 2022. Your EOI should also detail the nature of the innovative service proposed and how it can be evidenced and how outcomes for young people can be tracked. We expect proposals scaled for a minimum of 10 young people and maximum of 20 young people for a full year. We have the potential of identifying funding of a maximum of £550k for 20 young people per year.

An independent evaluator may be appointed to test the effectiveness of this project. Participation in the evaluation is a requirement.

# Section 3: Supporting information

Please note: you do not need to resize the table; it will automatically adjust to fit your response.

## Section A: Organisation and Contact Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** |
| Name of your organisation |  |
| Registered office (if applicable) |  |
| Trading address (if different from office) |  |
| Number of employees (FTE) to ascertain SME status. For larger organisations this should be the total FTE |  |
| Annual Turnover in the last full year prior to Covid – include value for consortium/joint ventures/partnerships where proposed |  |
| Name of person whom any queries relating to this questionnaire should be addressed |  |
| Telephone Number(s) |  |
| Email |  |
| Address if different to above |  |

## Section B: Questions

Please note: you do not need to resize the table; it will automatically adjust to fit your response.

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| --- |
| **Question** |
| **1.** How will your proposal meet the need to deliver Accommodation and Specialised Support for Care Leavers who are over 18 and NEET? **(maximum 1000 words)** |
| **Response** |
| **2.** Please describe your interest and capacity to develop the work in Northamptonshire, and please specify if this would be delivered in the West or the North of the county. **(maximum 1000 words)** |
| **Response** |
| **3.** How long would your project take to implement? |
| **Response** |
| **4.** If your proposal is already in use elsewhere: please give an example of your proposed solution in use and state how it has met the requirements of the customer. **(maximum 500 words)** |
| **Response** |