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Dear Supplier,

**Invitation to Market Engagement Event – Sexual Health Outreach Provision**

It is an exciting time for Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham’s (LSL) Sexual Health Outreach work. Lambeth is intending to commission Outreach Services across LSL with the aim to improve access and outcomes of populations disproportionately at risk of sexual and reproductive ill health. These populations are also known to face challenges and barriers in accessing mainstream services.

LSL face some of the greatest sexual health challenges in England. Lambeth and Southwark respectively have the highest and second highest rates of new STI diagnoses in London, with all three boroughs having rates significantly higher than the national average (OHID Fingertips Tool 2022).

Certain populations in LSL are disproportionately at risk of sexual ill health and are also known to face challenges and barriers in accessing mainstream services. The Authorities are seeking to commission a Sexual Health Outreach Service that offers (but is not limited to) advocacy, early intervention, sexual and reproductive health and local service promotion, peer/professional training and workshops, community engagement and outreach. It is intended that this service will be procured as three separate contracts (three lots) to enable smaller organisations with specific specialities to bid for services. These lots will work together as part of an alliance. The three target groups for the services include:

* Lot 1: Young People.
* Lot 2: Marginalised Groups – Sex workers, LGBTQ+, LD/SEND, recent migrants, rough sleepers/homeless.
* Lot 3: Black African, Black Caribbean, Latin and multi-ethnic communities.

In addition to these priority groups, we expect services to work with a wide range of vulnerable groups across LSL that are disproportionately at risk of sexual ill health.

The Services aim to address the outcomes highlighted in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2019–24:

* Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships.
* Good reproductive health across the life course.
* High quality and innovative STI testing and treatment.
* Living well with HIV.

The outreach service will be an integral part of the wider sexual health system in LSL and will serve as the ‘front door’ that will bring the appropriate services closer to the identified priority population groups. Empowerment and improving knowledge to enable them to make informed decisions about their sexual health are also critical to the design of these services. The service specification will ensure that the providers will deliver outreach interventions that will contribute to improving the sexual and reproductive health outcomes for their target population. The service will work closely with the NHS Trusts delivering the sexual health specialist clinics and primary care services, through a service coordinator function.

The Authorities encourage joint bids for each lot, highlighting the value of collaboration to unite diverse skills for the betterment of LSL residents. All relevant organisations, especially local ones across LSL, are welcome to join. Providers can submit bids for multiple lots. The awarded organisations will together form the Sexual Health Outreach Service Alliance.

The London Boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham will be hosting a market engagement and networking event on the following date:

* **Date: Tuesday 16th January 2024**
* **Time: 9.30am – 12pm**
* **Location: Lambeth Assembly Hall**

The event will aim to provide an opportunity for organisations working in sexual health or related fields to connect. We are asking that you come along with some resources (leaflets/posters) on your service which you can display and share and most importantly come prepared to meet and talk to us and other providers.

The agenda for the event:

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| **Time** | **Activity/Topic** | **Presenter(s)**  |
| 9:30 | Arrival and refreshments  | All  |
| 10:00 | Introductions/Presentation | Sexual Health Team |
| 10:30 | Q&A | All |
| 11:00 | Networking  | All  |
| 11:45 | Reflections/Conclusion | Sexual Health Team |

If you would like to attend the event, please send a message using the messaging function.

If your organisation is not signed up to contracts finder and you’d like to attend this event, please can you get in touch by sending an email to awicking1@lambeth.gov.uk or jbeturin1@lambeth.gov.uk

We look forward to meeting with you soon,

Alexander Wicking

**Senior Commissioning Officer (Sexual Health), Public Health**

**Adults and Health**

**Lambeth Council**