

Contract summary

Industry

Other Services – Modern Slavery

Location of contract

United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)

Value of contract

Up to £500,000 (available over FY 20/21 and FY 20/22)

Published date

2 November 2020

Opening date

2 November 2020

Closing date

14 December 2020

Contract start date 01 January 2021

Contract end date 31 January 2022

Piloting Devolved Decision Making for Child Victims of Modern Slavery

Description

The Home Office is seeking to award grant funding to local authorities with responsibility for children's social care in the United Kingdom to empower them to make decisions about whether children are victims of modern slavery in conjunction with local safeguarding partners. The total available grant funding from 1 January 2021 to 31 January 2022 will be up to £500,000 and anticipate funding a maximum of 10 projects.

Applicants may only submit one bid, as an individual bid or as part of a joint bid. Where a joint bid is submitted it is the responsibility of the Lead local authority to ensure its partner local authorities have not submitted an individual bid. If more than

one bid is submitted by an applicant, the Home Office reserves the right to exclude one or both bids.

Purpose of Pilots for Devolved Decision-Making Pilots

The purpose of the pilot's sites is to test different approaches to identifying children as victims of modern slavery, through local multi-agency decision making. The funding will be awarded to empower local authorities to integrate decisions about whether children are victims of modern slavery within their existing safeguarding structures.

Some of key requirements to be followed by the pilot sites are set out below. Full requirements are detailed in the Statement of Outcomes:

- Both the Reasonable Grounds and Conclusive Grounds decisions **must** be taken by safeguarding partners through a multi-agency structure at one or multiple meetings. In line with the [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#), this will be with representation from the three safeguarding partners – the local authority, health and police – as a minimum. Where possible, decisions should be taken through an existing multi-agency structure. Engagement with local authorities and NGOs in the design of these pilots has determined that, to avoid potential conflicts of interest, the chair of the multi-agency structure taking the decision should not be the lead social worker involved in the child's care where a social worker is allocated to the case.
- Pilot sites must make decisions as to whether a child is a victim of modern slavery in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and guidance provided to pilot sites. This requires two decisions to be made:
 - A **Reasonable Grounds (RG)** decision where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the individual is a victim
 - A **Conclusive Grounds (CG)** decision as to whether, on the balance of probabilities, a child is a victim of modern slaveryBoth decisions should be taken as soon as there is sufficient evidence to do so. A RG decision should be made no later than 45 days from the date the pilot site receives the referral. A positive CG decision can also be made at the same meeting if there is sufficient evidence to do so. If a pilot site deems the evidence gathered for the first multi-agency meeting is insufficient for a positive decision to be taken at the same meeting, then a second meeting to make the CG decision should take place no later than 45 days after the first meeting (90 days in total).
- The outcome of a Reasonable Grounds and/or a Conclusive Grounds decision must be reported to the Home Office within one working day using the Reporting Template provided.
- Any meetings where decisions are taken should be minuted.
- Once a final Conclusive Grounds decision has been made, and following any quality assurance that is required, the Home Office will issue a decision letter for the case outcome.
- These pilots will not replace any existing devolved legislation.

Please note: In all cases children should continue to receive appropriate safeguarding and support in line with current statutory requirements irrespective of the stage they are at in the decision-making process.

Eligibility

1. The fund is open to all local authorities in the United Kingdom with responsibility for children's social care.
2. The Home Office welcomes applications for funding from either individual local authorities or local authorities acting together as a consortium.
3. In the case of a consortium bid, one local authority will be nominated as the lead authority and will need to have agreement from all partner local authorities before bidding.
4. Bidders must ensure their bid meets the requirements set out in Section 4 of the Statement of outcomes.
5. Applicants will only be eligible for one grant of funding up to a maximum of £50k. However, the Home Office will consider higher bids in exceptional circumstances. These exceptional circumstances will require robust, evidence-based justification.

NOTICE TO SUPPLIERS

In December 2016, the Cabinet Office launched its minimum standards for government grants: These include the requirement that competition should be the default option when considering award of grant funding.

To comply, the Home Office has decided to manage its competitions using their Jaggaer eSourcing portal. The event will be run on the Home Office (HO) Jaggaer eSourcing portal.

How to register

In order to bid for funding, bidders will first need to register on the portal via the following link:

<https://homeoffice.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html>

Bidders should be approved for usage within 24 hours of registering on the system.

After clicking on the eSourcing portal link, it should take you to the home page. On the left-hand side of this page, just below the login boxes, there is an option to register.

To register as a supplier, you will need to provide information which will include:

- the full legal name of your organisation
- your DUNS number – a unique nine-digit number provided to organisations free of charge by Dun & Bradstreet

- profile information describing your organisation and the size of your business

Once registered as a supplier on the portal please send a notification e-mail to **childmspilots@homeoffice.gov.uk** to request access to the associated documents for the 'Piloting devolved decision making for child victims of modern slavery' Fund.

If you have any difficulties registering on the system, then you should contact the Supplier eSourcing Helpdesk: **customersupport@jaggaer.com**

The HO Jaggaer eSourcing portal is independent of other eSourcing portals. Therefore, if you have registered on the Crown Commercial Service Jaggaer eSourcing portal, you will also need to register on the HO Jaggaer eSourcing portal.

Please note that bids will only be accepted via the HO eSourcing portal. Any bids received outside of this system will not be considered by the Authority.

Please note that registering for access to the eSourcing tool will not make you a Home Office supplier. To be considered for award of funding you must first respond to an opportunity.

Further information about procurement at the Home Office can be found on the gov.uk website.

About the buyer

Address

The Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
England

Email: childmspilots@homeoffice.gov.uk

Other information

This competition will be managed electronically via the Home OfficeSourcing Suite.

How to apply

Once successfully registered on the system you should email **childmspilots@homeoffice.gov.uk**. You will then be given access to the event on the eSourcing portal, where you will find all the documentation needed. Applications for the fund will be submitted via the eSourcing portal.