# 

# Prior Information Notice

For

**Innovation in Alternative Provision**

North Northamptonshire Council jointly on

behalf of West Northamptonshire Council

# 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 innovation pilot in Alternative Provision for pupils excluded or suspended from school 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

Alternative Provision (AP) in the County of Northamptonshire is run on an established model. However recent review suggests that the outcomes for children in AP are not always measured or even defined. In anticipation of an AP Framework competition in 2022 we want to explore the creation of a pilot that will test different ways of providing education to excluded pupils, including definition of person centred outcomes. It is expected that this pilot would inform the future development of the main AP Framework.

The main purpose of the AP is to educate and meet the learning needs of children and young people whose permanent exclusion, suspension or where the provision is named in Section I of an EHC Plan does not allow them to attend mainstream school.

We would like to invite Expressions of Interest for innovative AP provision for a one year pilot period with the option of extending for up to three years if the new approach decided on can be shown to improve the outcomes for excluded pupils aged 13 to 16. These outcomes will include integration into mainstream education or employability preparation; improvement in public health and crime reduction outcomes; and a commitment to a data led and transparent approach. A successful Expression of Interest would also consider and detail how the pilot might support mainstream schools to keep children on the edge of exclusion on the mainstream school’s roll while providing short term interventions to meet learning needs and those that allow successful reintegration back into mainstream education

* 1. **Local Government Review**

Since April 2021 the eight existing sovereign councils of Northamptonshire comprise of; Wellingborough, Corby, Daventry, East Northants, Kettering, Northampton, Northamptonshire County Council and South Northamptonshire and have been replaced by two new unitary Councils:

* a new West Northamptonshire unitary council (WNC) serving the areas of Daventry District, Northampton Borough Council and South Northamptonshire and
* a new North Northamptonshire unitary authority (NNC) serving Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.

The funding and decision making for education services has been divided between NNC and WNC.  However, this exploration of an innovation pilot has been agreed by both Councils and the intention is to commission a pilot accordingly.  We are also in discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner and NHS and may commission a pilot on behalf of a wider partnership.

3.5 To diversify the market we are encouraging Expressions of Interest from small and medium enterprises that might bring innovation and new models to the AP market.

3.6 Potential/expected bidders may include:

* Schools
* Existing deliverers of alternative provision
* Universities and Training Organisations
* Commercial arms from other councils
* Small group of partners working together or as a consortium
* Large partnerships – possibly working as joint ventures

3.7 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 pilot
* 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 22nd February 2022.** The EOI should cover, as a minimum the criteria set out 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 Councils are requiring a sea change in how we deliver services to children excluded or suspended from school. The local picture does not provide the right drivers, options and support to produce the best outcomes for children including those listed below. We are looking for innovation proposals that would address all or most of these issues:

* a focus on supporting mainstream schools to retain children on roll while offering bespoke alternatives for each pupil at risk of exclusion
* where a child is excluded or suspended there is little incentive in the system to encourage rapid reintegration into mainstream education or preparation for employment
* current AP systems are not tailored to understanding the needs of individual children and their families/carers, producing plans that fit their needs and ability to engage, nor to evidence interventions and progress towards satisfactory outcomes
* the current arrangements also do not take a wider view of the life of children excluded or suspended from school, including dealing with public health and crime reduction issues
* the absence of data from current AP provision means that we cannot link into joint planning of services to meet the current and changing needs of individuals. There is also a reluctance to share data that is exacerbated by data sharing restrictions

Funding is being made available for a 12 month pilot period to commence no later than Spring Term 2023. The proposed funding for this pilot sits outside of Direct Schools Grant (DSG) and would not therefore impact on existing AP arrangements. If successful in year 1 then the pilot could be extended into the following 2 academic years. We are not setting an upper limit as we require EOIs to propose the number of pupils that can be worked with over the remainder of the academic year from “go live”, together with an indication of the number that could be worked with in the following academic year. Your EOI should also detail the nature of the innovative service proposed and how it can be evidenced and how outcomes for children can be tracked. We expect proposals scaled for a minimum of 100 children and maximum of 300 children for a full year. We have the potential of identifying funding of between £1m and £3m for the initial pilot year

An independent evaluator may be appointed to test the effectiveness of this pilot. 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.

|  |
| --- |
| **Question** |
| **1.** How will your proposal meet the need to deliver innovation in Alternative Provision **(maximum 1000 words)** |
| **Response** |
| **2.** Please describe your interest and capacity to develop the work in Northamptonshire **(maximum 1000 words)** |
| **Response** |
| **3.** How long would your pilot model 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** |