**Request for Proposal Document**

**The Supply of: IPS/SEQF and Health and Community Integration Services under Connect to Work in Buckinghamshire**

Deadline for receipt of the completed Response Document is

**Tuesday 14th October 2025**

**at 5:00 PM**

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All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Thank you for your interest in working with us**

**Connect to Work**

Connect to Work aims to address 'Hidden Unemployment' through a collaborative, locally driven approach, helping local communities to unlock their potential and contribute to both local and national growth. Quality employment is known to positively impact physical and mental health, providing income, social interaction, and a sense of purpose.

Connect to Work is a voluntary programme designed to tackle economic inactivity by providing targeted support to individuals based on their specific circumstances. It focuses on helping disabled people, those with health conditions, and individuals facing complex barriers to employment. The programme uses two key Supported Employment models: the Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) and Individual Placement and Support (IPS). SEQF follows the 'place, train, and maintain' approach, ensuring participants are placed in suitable jobs, trained, and supported to maintain employment. IPS, integrates supported employment within health services/settings, particularly for those with severe mental illness or substance dependence. Connect to Work builds on existing Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) funded programmes and aims to support around 81,000 participants annually in England, with additional places funded in Greater Manchester, West Midlands and Wales. Funding is being devolved through grants to Lead Accountable Bodies across the UK who will be responsible for designing locally needed solutions that align with model fidelity with a projected 75% of places for IPS and 25% for SEQF.

Eligibility for Connect to Work primarily includes individuals who are economically inactive within priority groups and wish to work. It also supports those at risk of losing their jobs who would struggle to re-enter the workforce without assistance. Participants must be disabled, have a work-limiting health condition and/or belong to specified disadvantaged groups, such as offenders, carers, homeless individuals, former armed forces members, and victims of domestic abuse, among others.

**Our Commissioning Approach to Connect to Work in Buckinghamshire**

As commissioners have now come to the market for Connect to Work, Fedcap will seek to submit a tender and are looking for potential delivery partners to be named in our submissions.

Our approach is to embrace local capacity to deliver IPS and/or SEQF services to eligible residents and we seek partners who can bring

1. Understanding and experience of supported employment delivery models including Individual Placement and Support (IPS) and/or Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF)
2. Local knowledge, insight and relationships, evidenced through integrated delivery/partnership with health services, social care and community/faith-based organisations

Interested organisations should complete the below Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding working with us on this opportunity. Please note that it will be likely that we will partner with different organisations in each of the county areas, reflecting the unique and differing needs of people living in Buckinghamshire

As part of our commitment to supporting inclusive economic growth and fostering diversity within our supply chain, we particularly welcome submissions from locally based/operating Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and/or Voluntary Community and Social Enterprises (VCSEs). We recognise and value the innovation and local expertise that SMEs/VCSEs bring and encourage their participation in this opportunity.

**Timetable of activity**

| **Activity** | **Dates** |
| --- | --- |
| RFP Issued | Wednesday 8th October 2025 |
| Deadline for Submission | Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 5:00 PM |
| Submission review | Wednesday 15th- Friday 17th October 2025 |
| Notification of successful responders | w/c Monday 20th October 2025 |

**Response to Questions**

Please complete all general questions below together with the relevant sections (1 and/or 2) that your organisation is experienced in providing.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company Name |  | Score |
| Registered Company Name if different to Company Name |  | N/A |
| Registered Company Address |  | N/A |
| Registered Company Number or Registered Charity Number |  | N/A |
| Primary Contact Name, Job Title, Email Address and Phone Number |  | N/A |
| Organisation Website |  | N/A |
| Company type (Public, Private, Charity, Social Enterprise etc.) |  | N/A |
| Date Organisation Established |  | N/A |
| Are you a member of any sector specific membership bodies? e.g., ERSA, IEP, BASE, etc. |  | N/A |
| Is your Organisation a Small/Medium Enterprise (SME)? |  | N/A |
| **1 – Supported Employment** |  |  |
| Please outline your recent experience delivering IPS and/or SEQF employment support models.  **(200 words = 5 points)** |  | Max 5 points |
| Was the above delivered in Buckinghamshire? Please provide examples  **(100 words max = 5 points)** |  | Max 5 points |
| Was the above delivered outside of Buckinghamshire? Please provide examples  **(100 words max = 2 points)** |  | Max 2 points |
| **2 – Local knowledge, insight & relationships** |  |  |
| Please outline your recent experience delivering health and/or community integration activities in Buckinghamshire? **(250 words = 5 points)** |  | Max 5 points |
| Please outline how your organisation will deliver social value through Connect to Work and actions you will take to promote economic wellbeing for participants and communities within the Lot areas. **(200 words max = 3 points)** |  | Max 3 points |
| Acceptance onto our supply chain will be subject to due diligence checks and confirmation that you have the following policies, processes or procedures in place or would be willing to be subject to ours for the period of the contract. Signature and submission of the document will be taken as confirmation that you agree to have any necessary checks undertaken and agreement to provide and evidence requested with respect to: | * Financial performance and standing (including credit checks) * Safeguarding and Prevent * Delivery accreditation or professional memberships (where applicable) * Cyber Security and data protection * Health and Safety * Social Value * Equality, Diversity and Inclusion * Modern Slavery * Fraud Prevention including Corruption and Bribery * Registration with the Government’s Central Digital Platform (i.e. share code & supplier information download) | N/A |

**Please indicate below which accreditations/standards you have been measured against (not scored)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Provision** | **Audited** | **Date of last audit** | **Audit outcome** |
| **SEQF** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **IPS** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **OFSTED** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **Matrix** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **CQC** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **Disability Confident** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |

**I declare that to the best of my knowledge the answers submitted in this document are correct.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FORM COMPLETED BY: - | |
| Name |  |
| Job Title |  |
| Date |  |
| Telephone Number |  |
| Signature |  |

For the purposes of this electronically transmitted document, it is sufficient that typed names are permitted rather than signatures. A typed name will be deemed to have been signed by the person stated with the necessary responsibility required within the organisation.

All information you give us is deemed confidential.

Thank you once again for your interest in wanting to work with us.

**Please note – it is up to you to update us if the information you have given changes, or if you do not want us to keep your details on file anymore, please contact partnerships@fedcap.org.uk**