Market Engagement

DHSC: PCP: Children’s Oral Health in England

Project: C302326

Version Number: 1

Date: **09/09/2024**

1. **Introduction**
   1. This information note, along with the accompanying details, is being publicly shared via Contracts Finder, making it accessible to all suppliers in the market.
   2. The purpose of this market engagement is to gauge interest from industry stakeholders with regards to the extent and type of support which they would be able to provide in line with the department’s ambitions. The department’s interest at this stage is in any potential partners that could provide physical support and assistance to help shape, inform and deliver our strategic ambition to improve the oral health of children and young people and to reduce inequalities. This support and assistance could include but not be limited to the donation of goods or services additional to the governments planned investment in supervised toothbrushing for 3 to 5 year olds in England, the development of initiatives or sponsor opportunities that help children and their families look after their oral health.
   3. You are invited to express your interest by submitting the questionnaire at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/WP43GTVu9B>
   4. The questionnaire will close for responses on **23rd September 2024 at 10am BST**, responses after this time will not be accepted.
   5. Following this market consultation, there may be further engagement with suppliers who have expressed interest.

# Background and requirements

## Tooth decay is the most common oral disease affecting children and young people in England, yet it is largely preventable. Tooth decay can cause problems with eating, sleeping, communication and socialising, and results in days being missed from school, including for preventable extractions in hospital.

## Tooth decay could be prevented by cutting down on sugar, as well as brushing teeth with fluoride toothpaste. Appropriate and timely advice on good oral health habits is essential to help ensure children and families can look after their teeth well.

1. **market consultation-questionnaire return**
   1. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) applies to the Department. You should be aware of the Department's obligations and responsibilities under the FOIA to disclose, on written request, recorded information held. Information provided by you in connection with this market engagement exercise may therefore have to be disclosed in response to such a request, unless the Department decides that one of the statutory exemptions under the FOIA applies. The Department may also include certain information in the publication scheme which it maintains under the FOIA.
   2. In certain circumstances, and in accordance with the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the FOIA or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Department may consider it appropriate to ask you for your views as to the release of any information before a decision on how to respond to a request is made. In dealing with requests for information under the FOIA, the Department must comply with a strict timetable and the Department would, therefore, expect a timely response to any consultation within two working days.
   3. You may provide information which is confidential in nature and which you may wish to be held in confidence. You must give a clear indication which type of material is to be considered confidential and why it is considered to be so, along with the time period for which it will remain confidential in nature. The use of blanket protective markings such as "commercial in confidence" will no longer be appropriate. In addition, marking any material as confidential or equivalent should not be taken to mean that the Department accepts any duty of confidentiality by virtue of such marking. Please note that even where you have indicated that information is confidential the Department may be required to disclose it under the FOIA if a request is received.
   4. The Department cannot accept that trivial information or information which by its very nature cannot be regarded as confidential should be subject to any obligation of confidence.
   5. In certain circumstances where information has not been provided in confidence, the Department may still wish to consult with you about the application of any other exemption such as that relating to disclosure that will prejudice the commercial interests of any party.
   6. The decision as to which information will be disclosed is reserved to the Department notwithstanding any consultation with you.
   7. The publication of any documents at this stage is intended to provide potential bidders with the opportunity to express and interest to be considered to form partnerships and to view and comment on the background and requirements. The Department does not intend to be bound by any information at this stage. The Department makes no commitment to proceed with forming partnerships or to accept recommendations or suggestions.

Regards,

**Sector Insights and Commercial Strategy**

**Commercial Directorate, Department of Health & Social Care**

1. **Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU**

**APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please respond using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/WP43GTVu9B>

All responses must be submitted by **23rd September 2024 at 10am BST**, responses after this time will not be accepted.

# Section 1: gauging the level of interest

## Would you be interested in partnering to support the Government’s commitment to improve the oral health of children in England?

## If you have responded yes to the above question, how long would you be interested in a partnership for?

## 6-12 months

## 1-3 years

## 3-5 years

# Section 2: collaboration for Products and services

## We are aware that both products and services suitable for children and their families are important in ensuring good oral health habits and that messages and advice are understood.

## In order to gauge your level of interest and ability to support, please could you indicate below which areas and potential scale of assistance you would be able to donate. Would you be able to provide any of the following products and services?

## Toothbrushes.

## Please provide details of the type of product, quantity of donation and suitability for age of users?

## Toothpaste

## Please provide details of the type of product, quantity of donation and suitability for age of users?

## Other goods that support good oral health at home, school or in community settings?

## Please provide details of these products.

## We would be looking to focus on a variety of community based locations and to support existing local initiatives to support children and their families and any product or service would need to be accessible to local partners with appropriate distribution.

## Would you have any form of distribution or logistics support that could be accessible to local partners?

## Distribution/other logistics to local areas, for example:

## Central distribution point.

## Central warehouse.

## Direct to nursery/schools/community based venues.

No distribution facility

Other:

## It would be useful to understand whether there are other services or initiatives that provide advice and guidance to professionals, parents or children. For example, the provision of oral health training, physical resources or digital media appropriate for children or parents to maintain good oral health?

# SECTION 3: CONTACT DETAILS

**(This should be completed by the Supplier or a partner or an authorised representative in his / her own name and on behalf of the company / organisation completing this questionnaire)**

**Name of COMPANY:**

## Name and position of authorised representative submitting the questionnaire:

## Email address:

## Company address:

## Additional contact names, positions and email addresses in case follow up questions are required:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Title/position | Email |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire**

If you have questions to raise in regard to this potential opportunity please contact [ccsinbox@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:ccsinbox@dhsc.gov.uk) quoting "Children's Oral Health" in the subject line.