**Reference:** CSEC (SEND) 16-17/01

**Title:** Contract to support the improvement of services for young offenders who have special educational needs and disabilities.

**Contact Details**:

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**Background and description of the services required**

On 1 September 2014, Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 took effect, offering simpler, improved and more consistent help for children and young people in England with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The new system is:

* replacing statements of SEN and learning disability assessments with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans - setting out in one place all the support families will receive;
* requiring councils to publish a ‘local offer’ showing the support available in the area to all children and young people who have disabilities or SEN;
* requiring better co-operation between councils and health services to make sure services for children and young people with SEN and disabilities are jointly planned and commissioned;
* giving parents and young people with EHC plans the offer of a personal budget;
* introducing mediation for disputes; and
* introducing a legal right for children and young people with an EHC plan to express a preference for state academies, free schools and further education colleges.

On 26 January 2016, the Children’s Minister Edward Timpson, announced a package of additional support for implementation of the SEND reforms in England during 2016-17. This included:

* £35.8 million in [implementation funding for local authorities in 2016 to 2017](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-reform-funding-for-local-authorities-2016-to-2017), recognising the additional duties placed on them as a result of the transition to EHC plans
* £27.3 million for the [Family Fund Trust](http://www.familyfund.org.uk/) to support low income families with disabled children
* £15 million to fund the [independent supporters programme](http://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/independentsupport), helping to support families and young people to navigate the system, and creating positive experiences for them
* £2.3 million for [Parent Carer Forums](http://www.nnpcf.org.uk/), which bring parents together to provide invaluable support and advice for families

To complement this programme of delivery support, the Government is now seeking applications for a new contract in 2016-17 to support the improvement of services for young offenders who have special educational needs and disabilities.

Some of the key requirements for the contract are provided at Annex A. Further information is contained within the Invitation to Tender documentation. To request a copy of the documentation, please e mail the contracts mailbox at: SENDcontracts2016-17@education.gsi.gov.uk, quoting the contract title and reference number. In the subject line of your e mail, please include the words ‘Request for ITT documentation’.

**Estimated Contract Start Date (subject to change): 25 April 2016**

**Contract End Dates: 31 March 2017**

**Estimated value or range of values**:

The maximum estimated value of this contract is up to £200k inclusive of VAT.

**Deadline for receipt of tenders (time and date)**:

Three hard copies of all completed tenders must be received by Angela Overington no later than 10.00am on 21 March 2016 at:

The Department for Education

0-25 SEND Unit

Level 1, Sanctuary Buildings

Great Smith Street

London SW1P 3BT

An electronic PDF version must also be submitted no later than 10.00am on

21 March 2016 to the contracts mailbox at:

**Contracts2016-17.SEND@education.gsi.gov.uk**.

At Annex A are some of the key contract requirements for this tender.

**Any other info**:

There may be an option to extend this contract for a second year depending on the contractor’s performance, the availability of funds and an ongoing need for the services provided.

**Annex A: Key Contract Requirements**

**Contract 01: CSEC (SEND)16-17/01: Young offenders**

**1.1 Contract Requirement 1 – UNDERSTANDING AND COORDINATION (knowledge)**

Contract bidders will need good all round knowledge of SEN and disability reform and of the youth justice system. The contract is about supporting the two systems to work together, so the provider will need to have experience of both and an understanding of the particular challenges of young people in custody with SEN and disabilities.

We would like the successful bidder to:

* be able to build on existing knowledge of the challenges and solutions;
* effectively engage with young people with special educational needs and disabilities in custody and who have left custody; and
* engage busy professionals who work in relevant organisations (secure estate, local authorities, YOTs, health, social care and education including Pupil Referral Units) to work together to help these children and young people achieve.

The bidder should demonstrate:

* Their knowledge of the youth justice system and the relevant SEN and disability reforms introduced via the Children and Families Act 2014 and the relevant regulations.
* Their in-depth understanding of children and young people in custody, their complex stories and often troubled families.
* How they will work with the relevant infrastructure and professionals that support young offenders with SEN or disabilities’ education, health and care needs to build their knowledge base.
* How they will work with children and young people in custody or who have left custody to continuously build their understanding of how the reforms are working for this cohort.

**1.2 Contract Requirement 2 – INNOVATIVE AND MOTIVATIONAL DELIVERY AND COMMUNICATION (ways of working)**

The Department for Education recognises that improving outcomes for children and young people with SEN and disabilities in custody requires a step change in approach for much of the supporting infrastructure. The reforms introduced via the Children and Families Act provide a new impetus to challenge local authorities, YOTs, and the secure estate to improve their support to young detainees with SEN and disabilities, working together to meet their education, health and care needs. The aim of the reforms is to ensure these children and young people with high needs get the educational support they need, to reduce re-offending and improve outcomes.

We would like the successful bidder to:

* be able to innovate and use the creative energy of the sector to find new and rewarding ways of working that stimulate both the professionals who serve this group and the young people themselves;
* focus resources on the local areas, YOTs and SEN teams, health commissioners and social care teams that have the greatest number of young offenders in custody (London, West-Midlands, and the North-West) and those which are furthest behind in understanding and implementing the reforms to support young offenders with SEN and disabilities;
* add to existing guidance and websites to address any gaps in understanding and know-how and produce regular good quality communications for sector professionals, as required;
* be mindful of the possible changes to the youth estate and education services following the review of the youth justice system, and what these could mean for the professionals working in the system and for young people with SEND.

The bidder should demonstrate:

* Innovative methods for engaging children and young people who may have disengaged, or who are unable to engage, in the world more commonly occupied by their peers.
* How they will attract busy professionals to work together in a sustained peer group and stimulate innovation to build a body of best practice.
* How they will introduce new ways of communicating to impact on busy lives alongside tried and tested methods.
* How they will identify which areas of the country to focus their efforts.

**1.3 Contract Requirement 3 – CROSS-CUTTING TRAINING AND IDENTIFICATION AND SHARING OF EVIDENCE BASED BEST PRACTICE (training and best practice)**

We want the contractor to provide training that brings together professionals and practitioners from different relevant disciplines (Youth Offending Teams, education, SEN, health, social care, the secure estate, education providers and CAMHS) to build understanding of evidence-based best practice and joint working. This training should be sustainable, and ideally be in a format that enables those who attend to pass learning back to others in their organisations.

We would like the successful bidder to:

* Be able to understand and work with all the important services that need to work together to assess and plan for children and young people with SEN and disabilities in custody.
* Coordinate representatives of the different disciplines to work and train together
* Provide comprehensive training covering both the statutory framework and ways of working to achieve better outcomes for children and young people with SEND when they leave custody. This training should be interactive and also provide a way to enable attendees to share the learning within their organisations.

The bidder should demonstrate:

* How they will train the relevant professionals, including how they will attain sufficient reach across geographical areas and local authority disciplines.
* How they will engage with the education providers within custody settings as well as the local authority officers.
* How they will review the quality of the training offer.
* How they will follow-up the training experience to sustain learning, such as through refresher training or modules.
* How they will encourage professionals and practitioners to sustain their contact or build local cross-cutting groups to improve services to children and young people in custody with SEN and disabilities.

**1.4 Contract Requirement 4 USING EVIDENCE AND DATA TO BEST EFFECT (data and evaluation)**

Analysis of best practice and data on young offenders with SEN and disabilities and evidence of the remaining implementation challenges will provide policy teams in the Department for Education, Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board with helpful evidence on what works and what more needs to be done to improve outcomes.

We would like the successful bidder to:

* be able to analyse official statistics on young offenders with SEN and disabilities alongside the bidder’s own findings from their work and relevant data from the sector.
* Maintain a regular dialogue with DfE, NHS England, MoJ and the YJB to share evidence of what works, barriers to effective delivery and whether other policy interventions are required with appropriate recommendations.
* Provide expertise to assist DfE respond to queries, correspondence or briefing requests concerning young offenders with SEN or disabilities. This may include advising DfE and MoJ on questions and proposals that arise from the MoJ review of the youth justice system and how they relate to young offenders with SEN or disabilities.

The bidder should demonstrate:

* How they will report on the impact of SEND reforms on young offenders including both best practice and the barriers that they have identified.
* What data sources they will use.
* How they can provide helpful feedback and recommendations to the Department for Education, the Ministry of Justice, Youth Justice Board and NHS England.
* Their skills in providing good quality, informative responses, articles and briefing to tight deadlines.