

# Expression of interest

# Title: Evaluation of Social Work Teaching Partnerships

**Project reference: DFERPPU/2018070**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: Friday 2nd November 2018 at 5pm**

## Summary

This is a small-scale evaluation of the Social Work Teaching Partnerships. The evaluation will inform sustainability planning and will explore how to put successful teaching partnership activity into practice, both now and once funding has stopped. The research will also seek to identify how different delivery models and initiatives have met the objectives of the programme. We are suggesting that the evaluation will comprise of a documentary review, analysis of management information and a sample of detailed case-studies.

## Background

Teaching Partnerships (TPs) are a joint DfE/DHSC initiative that bring educators and employers together to make education more relevant to practice, raise standards and drive up quality for all social work students and practitioners in children and adults' social work. By getting local authorities involved in the initial and continuing education of social workers, TPs seek to establish a collaborative relationship between them and the HEIs, where the curriculum and training can be jointly developed, delivered and owned.

In 2015, four pilot sites were established. DfE expanded the programme in 2016 to 15 partnerships, with a further expansion in 2018, to 22 partnerships. The programme now involves 108 local authorities, 50 universities (approximately 70%) and a range of other public sector, private, voluntary and independent organisations. The aim of the funding is to provide a catalyst to improvement and for teaching partnerships to create sustainable changes within their regions. We have signalled to partnerships that it is unlikely they will receive further funding beyond the end of 18/19 (2015 starters) and 19/20 (2018 starters).

## Evaluation aims

The evaluation will inform sustainability planning and will explore how to put successful teaching partnership activity into practice, both now and once funding has stopped. The research will also seek to identify how different delivery models and initiatives have met the objectives of the programme. In exploring sustainability, the research will look to find out if funding has created enough momentum to maintain beneficial activities in the medium to long-term future.

The evaluation will look to answer three primary questions:

1. What activities have TPs delivered?
2. How have TPs delivered those activities?
3. What are the early impacts of the TP activities?

## Methodology

A mixed method approach is proposed, comprising of the following activities:

* **Documentary review** – for example, this could include individual TP bids, reports and any individual evaluation activities carried out by the TPs.
* **Analysis of management information** – for example, gather and analyse the project level MI along with any existing data on social workers, higher education institutions and students.
* **Detailed case-studies** – for example, interviews and focus groups with representatives from TPs including project managers, academic or local authority leads.

#### Evaluation timescales

The evaluation will start in December, initial findings to inform the 2018 partnerships that are in the early stages of development will be required in March 2019 and the final report will be completed in March 2020.

#### Outputs

Outputs from the evaluation will include:

* Evaluation initial findings report (March 2019)
* Evaluation Final report (March 2020)
* Evaluation report summary
* Infographic summary of findings for TPs focussing on good practice

## Timing

* Deadline for EOIs – Friday 2nd November 2018 at 5pm

## Assessment criteria

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the following criteria:

* Demonstrating an understanding of the Department’s requirements
* Knowledge and/or experience of research / evaluation of social work courses in higher education institutions and/or social work teaching
* Experience of the evaluation methodologies
* Experience of working on high profile Government research projects / evaluations, delivering to tight deadlines and writing good quality reports which are targeted to their audience.

Each of these criteria has equal weighting.

The Department welcomes collaborations between organisations in order to meet these criteria.

Expressions of interest submitted must be no more than 1,000 words – anything longer will be disregarded.

| **Closing date for EOIs: Friday 2nd November 2018 at 5pm**  **Send your EOI form to:** [**rachel.jones@education.gov.uk**](mailto:rachel.jones@education.gov.uk) |
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## How to submit an expressions of interest

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered to be invited to tender. To do so, please complete the NEW EOI Form which can be found under attachments. A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback is however available on request.

All contracts are let on the basis of the [Department’s Terms and Conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eoi-guide). You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

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