**Research into Social Work in England questions from bidders**

Q - Are you able to provide any sample or contact details:

Of social workers

Of relevant teams within local authorities

Of stakeholders

Response: We would anticipate bidders to provide evidence of having all of the above to enable them to carry out the research.

Q - Are you able to provide a sense of the available budget for this brief?

00273 – <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/78da8662-e6f6-4402-a255-015f280c8722?p=@QxUlRRPT0=NjJNT08=UF>

Q - In the costing sheet, do you have a view as to whether we include our staff time under ‘Fixed costs’, or under ‘Profit’?

Response: Please include under Fixed or Variable costs.

Q - Will you (and therefore we) have access to latest HESA data as part of the research?

Is the budget (on contract finder) correct at 60-65K– does this include VAT?

Response: We would anticipate bidders to provide evidence of having access to all of the necessary research tools they identify as being necessary to enable them to carry out the research.

Q- Regarding point 5.6  - do you have a feel for how many organisations you are considering here?

Response: We will have a full understanding of how many are interested at the close of the bidding period.

Q - In terms of surveys to LAs, HEIs, social workers and/or students – did you want to be involved in the dissemination of links through your SWE regional engagement leads (or would you rather we use other methods e.g. through our own contacts)?

Response: This is an option and we’d be happy to discuss this with the successful bidder

Q - Is there any expectation from stakeholders that this research will take place (this will help us understand potential engagement)?

Response: The research tenders are readily available, we haven’t actively raised the profile of the tenders with partners, but will look to work with the successful bidder to make the necessary introduction for them to carry out their proposed research approach.

Q - Is the report likely to be published?

Response: Yes.

Q - Do you have access to any previous research conducted in either of these subject areas?

Response: We would expect bidders to have the necessary access to relevant research in order to carry out their proposed research method.

*Q -* We are currently exploring a number of different routes to recruit the target groups to participate in this research. Please could you tell us if you have access to any contact details that we could use to recruit individuals to participate in research? We are thinking here if Social Work England may hold details of those registered that could be used for research, or perhaps links with professional bodies or organisations who might have, including universities? We are thinking here about all of the target groups for this piece of research: social work students, those working as Social Workers, and those who have left the profession in the past 5 years

Response: We would anticipate bidders to provide evidence of having all of the above to enable them to carry out the research. Social Work England may be able to support outreach but this will be considered in relation to our own capacity to support the research and against our other communication demands with stakeholders and social workers at the time.

Q - we wanted to clarify the word count for sections 2 and 3 as written on page 21 of the ITT.

For section 2, it says: A maximum of 1,000 words should be submitted for this section along with CVs

For section 3, it says: A maximum of 1,000 words should be submitted for this section along with a plan

Are we right to assume that: section 2 is a maximum of 1,000 words ***excluding*** CVs and that section 3 is 1,000 words ***excluding*** the ‘clear plan and timeline in place for each aspect of delivery’ as specified on page 15?

Response: this is correct

Q - The tender stresses the need for representative research samples. If we ensured the sample was representative at the demographic, local authority versus other care setting, and adult versus child social care levels, would that be sufficient? Or will it be important to reflect, for example the different types of adult social care?

Response:

Q - Will SWE be open and willing to work with the successful tenderer to secure the support and cooperation of organisations such as BASW, the Social Workers Union, and Skills for Care?

Response: The research tenders are readily available, we haven’t actively raised the profile of the tenders with partners, but will look to work with the successful bidder to make the necessary introduction for them to carry out their proposed research approach

Q - Does SWE have any existing research and access to existing databases of workers that the successful tenderer can take advantage of.  In particular, do you have access to a database of individuals who have left the profession/whose registration has lapsed?

Response: We would expect bidders to have the necessary access to relevant research in order to carry out their proposed research method.

Q - Do diagrams and visuals count towards the word limit in the submission document?

Response: Diagrams and visuals do not count towards the word limit and should be provided only where requested.