The London Borough of Lambeth is seeking feedback from the supply market for its forthcoming retender of the following statutory services:

* Independent Visiting
* Under section 23ZB (1) (b) of the Children Act 1989
* Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Guidance
* Advocacy for Children Looked After (CLA) and Care Leavers
* Section 26A of the Children Act 1989
* Adoption and Children Act 2002
* The Advocacy Services and Representations Procedure (Children) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/719),
* UN Convention for the Rights of the Child and the Every Child Matters: Next Steps.

The existing provision in Lambeth is split into two contracts, with one provider delivering all the statutory independent visiting for children looked after, as well as advocacy for CLA and care leavers up to the age of 25.

We are seeking to commission an independent provider who can deliver the following to eligible children and young people subject to Child Protection, children looked after, care leavers and children with disabilities:

* **Independent Visiting** – the service is to provide a stable, consistent and supportive relationship for CLA under the age of 18 who are isolated from their families, delivering a service specific to their needs.
* **Advocacy** – the commissioned provider will support the council to meet their statutory obligation to make arrangements for the provision of advocacy for CLA and care leavers. The service will train and support advocates to speak up for children and young people, empowering them to make sure their rights are respected and their wishes and views are heard at all times. We would are also seeking to provide non-statutory advocacy for children on child protection plans and at child protection conferences.

A new service and contract is expected to commence on 1st January 2020. The overarching aim of both services is to improve outcomes and enhance the future prospects of Lambeth’s looked after children. The council’s strategic vision for children and young people is set out within the Children and Young People’s Plan for Lambeth 2018-22. This document identifies four key ambitions for the children and young people of Lambeth, including those looked after by the local authority:

* That children and young people are able to achieve
* That children and young people are healthy
* That children and young people both feel and are safe
* That children and young people are resilient

It is an expectation that all our commissioned partners, including the Independent Visiting and Advocacy share these ambitions. The provider will also support us to meet key recommendations set out by Ofsted during our last inspection for Children’s Social Care.

To assist us, before commencing the procurement process, we wish to engage the market to help us to not only shape the process, but to also increase and improve the offer of advocacy and independent visiting for more of Lambeth’s CLA. As part of our aim to ensure good quality services and value for money, we are looking to review our pricing model and would welcome suggestions. In addition to the above, the council is also increasing its advocacy offer to children on child protection plans and at child protection conferences, and would like to gain an understanding of future levels of demand. Providers are therefore invited to complete the questionnaire below. Please complete and submit all responses by close of business on **Wednesday 29 May, 2019**.

**Questions**

1. Are you delivering similar services at present? If so, what services are you delivering and how are these funded/contracted? Please include brief details of other London boroughs you work with, and the number of children supported per annum (including those on CP plans for advocacy).
2. Would your organisation be interested in tendering for a block contract made up of a predetermined number of hours or a predetermined number of cases? Please explain the reasons why for your preference?
3. For Independent Visiting, can you comment on the feasibility of a tiered pricing model which guarantees a certain tariff for newly matched young people to an IV, and a reduced rate once that IV relationship is established after a specified period of time?
4. We are looking for informal expressions of interest in these services at this stage in order to establish the level of market interest. Would you be interested in bidding for advocacy (for children looked after and at child protection conferences) and IV, delivering all of these specified services within a contract? Please state Yes or No and explain your reasons why.
5. Are there any additional comments that you would like to offer?

­­

**Process for responses**

Participants should please send the attached responses, in MS word format via email to TPennycook@lambeth.gov.uk no later than 12 noon on 29 May.

Any clarification questions regarding this process must be submitted via email to TPennycook@lambeth.gov.uk no later than 12 noon on 25th May.

In the event that a participant considers the nature of their clarification request to be confidential, and/or commercially sensitive, supporting rationale should be provided, detailing the reasons why the clarification request should be so treated.

**For the avoidance of doubt, information provided in response to this questionnaire will not be used by The London Borough of Lambeth in assessment of participants during any potential procurement process.**

**Confidentiality and Freedom of Information**

Participants are requested to note that London Boroughs are subject to the disclosure requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, (FoIA) and any information held is potentially liable to disclosure under that Act. For this reason, we would strongly advise that any information you consider to be commercially confidential is labelled as such. In the event that a request is subsequently made for disclosure under the FoIA, that request will be dealt with in accordance with the legislation.

**N.B. THIS IS NOT A CALL FOR COMPETITION**