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Planning

Contract for hosting and managing the Peer Associate Workers (Part of Kent and Medway Designated Keyworker Programme)

Kent County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-002149

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-039a21

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Kent County Council

County Hall

Maidstone

ME14 1XQ

Contact

Ms Natasha Mahay

Email

natasha.mahay@kent.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3000417126

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ4 - Kent

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.kent.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

<http://www.kent.gov.uk>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Contract for hosting and managing the Peer Associate Workers (Part of Kent and Medway Designated Keyworker Programme)

Reference number

DN651089

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85323000 - Community health services
 - AA01 - Metal

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Kent County Council is looking to appoint a supplier, to host and manage the Peer Associate Workers who are part of the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System Designated Keyworker Programme. This procurement is for social and other services referred to in Regulations 74 of the Public Contracts Regulations (2015) and as such, the intention is to use the light touch regime, rather than the full regime described in Regulations 28 (Restricted Procedure).

The Kent and Medway Designated Keyworker Programme is an NHS England-funded programme that is being implemented by Kent County Council (hereafter referred to as 'the Council') on behalf of Kent and Medway Integrated Care System.

The 'Keyworking' function was developed in response to the NHS England and NHS Improvement Long Term Plan (LTP) commitment that, by 2023/24, children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both, with the most complex of needs will have a designated Keyworker, as recommended in the Lenehan Report (2017). It was designed to:

- ensure that autistic and learning-disabled children and young people, aged 0-25, (hereafter referred to as 'CYP') and their families get the right support at the right time and that local services are responsive in meeting their needs in a holistic and joined up

way.

- prevent avoidable admission to any form of acute mental health hospital or institutional care.
- where a CYP is admitted to an acute mental health hospital, ensure discharge plans are developed and in place, and that their length of stay is as brief as possible.

The ethos of Keyworking is to ensure a preventative and personalised approach for each CYP and their family. The Peer Associate role is one of several keyworking functions that collaborate to help the CYP and their family to effectively navigate the system through facilitating shared and clear person/family-led formulations or stories which enable effective and enhanced interventions by addressing physical/psychological/social/other issues contributing to risks of admission or placement breakdown.

There are currently six Peer Associates representing 6 staff equivalent to 5.4 WTE who provide lived experience support and advocacy to CYP and their families who are receiving complex care support from health, education, and social care. The Peer Associates are pivotal to assuring that the voices of children/young people and their families are heard within their community and wider care and support systems.

This Prior Information Notice (PIN) is to advise prospective providers of the Commissioners intention. It is our intention to hold a Virtual Market Engagement event via MS Team, with providers, in order to finalise the development of the service specification on Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 9:30am - 11:00am.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £800,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85312310 - Guidance services
- 85312400 - Welfare services not delivered through residential institutions

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ4 - Kent

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Peer Associate role was designed to improve the experience of CYP and their families in navigating the complex care and support systems. Peer Associates are lived experience experts who provide CYP and families with practical and emotional support and connect them to community services/assets including to a peer community of support with similar lived experiences.

As a holistic and dynamic service, the whole family is supported, responding effectively to the needs of CYP and their families to create positive outcomes for families who may have felt let down by the system and feel isolated by their lived experience.

As a needs-based programme, a family may be allocated a named Peer Associate to form a safety net around the CYP and family.

The purposes of these roles are to:

1. Provide practical and emotional support to CYP with complex care and support needs and help them and their families to access timely and personalised support in the community
2. Provide advocacy and give voice to CYP and family, ensuring they are informed about their rights
3. Assist families affected by extreme challenges to build resilience and cope with the stresses of living with a CYP with learning disability, autism or both.

The ultimate aim of this function is to work collaboratively to ensure that the needs of the CYP and family are recognised and responded to by the systems surrounding the family unit.

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £800,000

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

24 January 2023

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Contract for hosting and managing the Peer Associate Workers (Part of Kent and Medway Designated Keyworker Programme) falls under services to which the Light Touch Regime (LTR) applies. As such, Kent County Council will use the LTR flexibilities to conduct the procurement under the Restricted procedure under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.