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Contract

## **Con\_24070 Reducing Court Delays Delivery Partner FTS**

Department for Education

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-003262

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-043618

Published 31 January 2024, 4:24pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

#### **Email**

[James.DREW@education.gov.uk](mailto:James.DREW@education.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

#### **I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

#### **I.5) Main activity**

Education

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### **Section II: Object**

#### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

##### **II.1.1) Title**

Con\_24070 Reducing Court Delays Delivery Partner FTS

##### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 79411000 - General management consultancy services

##### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

##### **II.1.4) Short description**

DfE is seeking a Delivery Partner to deliver a new pilot from January 2024 to March 2025 aimed at reducing delays in the family justice (FJ) system by working with Local Authorities (LAs) in Designated Family Judge (DFJ) areas to develop and implement solutions to tackle the root causes of delay.

The FJ system is one of the most complex and cross-system policy areas in children's services. DfE holds responsibility for public law, covering all vulnerable children in England who require LA intervention.

2.3. Unacceptable delays in the family courts have been a long-standing issue for over 10 years. In 2011, the average case duration (for cases when a social worker (SW) determines that a child is at significant risk, so applies for an order) was c55 weeks, with some cases taking more than two years to conclude. This results in poorer outcomes for children and huge additional costs to LAs and the taxpayer. The estimated costs of the FJ system is £1.2bn , which equates to over 10% of all direct expenditure on the children's

social care (CSC) system (2019/20) .

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

#### **II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)**

Value excluding VAT: £1,000,000

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 79400000 - Business and management consultancy and related services

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

To achieve a whole system approach, and mitigate individual agencies working in silos, a Delivery Partner to deliver a new pilot from January 2024 to March 2025 aimed at reducing de-lays in the family justice (FJ) system by working with Local Authorities (LAs) in Designated Family Judge (DFJ) areas to develop and implement solutions to tackle the root causes of de-lay.

There has been an increase in issues resolution hearings (IRH), case management hearings (CMH) and further CMHs since 2017. Within the trailblazer pilot, we are specifically trying to reduce further case management hearings – additional hearings that are over and above the Public Law Outline (PLO) that create delays.

The pilot has the key aim to reduce delay in the number of hearings per case, as well as di-vert more cases from court; therefore, reducing costs across the FJ system and improving children's outcomes. Research suggests that at a conservative estimate, a one-week reduction in average proceedings duration, which in turn would reduce costs associated with placements, legal costs, staffing and external assessments, could result in a financial benefit of £18.5 million across all English LAs' children's services budgets. The monetised benefits come from:

- Resolving a case outside of court, saving £57,629 per case.
- Reducing the length of proceedings, with a marginal cost of £1,146 per week.

- Reducing the number of further CMHs required, saving an estimated £3,589 per hearing.
- Reducing expert reports requested and produced. An expert report costs £844 on average .

The pilot will be rolled out in five DFJ areas with an average demand of 1,825 cases per year. We estimate at least a 5% reduction in demand and that proceedings will be shortened by three weeks because of the pilot, resulting in total gross benefits of c£10.7m.

## **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price

## **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

## **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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# **Section IV. Procedure**

## **IV.1) Description**

### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

Competitive call off from a CCS Framework - MCF3 Lot 7

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **Section V. Award of contract**

### **Contract No**

con\_24070

### **Title**

Con\_24070 Reducing Court Delays Delivery Partner FTS

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

22 January 2024

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 2

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

#### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

Mutual Ventures Ltd

2-6 Boundary Row, London, SE1 8HP

London

SE1 8HP

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

**V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,000,000

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**Section VI. Complementary information**

**VI.4) Procedures for review**

**VI.4.1) Review body**

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Country

United Kingdom