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Planning

Strengthening the Supported Internships Programme

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-004467

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03180f

Published 16 February 2022, 10:45pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

sendbaea.commercial@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Strengthening the Supported Internships Programme

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

DfE's vision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is the same as for all children and young people – that they achieve well in their early years, at school and in college; they find employment; lead happy, fulfilled lives; and experience choice and control.

Supported Internships (SIs) are a work-based study programme for 16-24 year olds with SEND who have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan, who want to move into employment and who need extra support to do so. SIs are designed to equip young people with the skills they need to secure and sustain employment through learning in the workplace.

The DfE is considering its commissioning approach for the delivery of the 'Strengthening the Supported Internships Programme' contract. We want to build the capacity of the programme and are aiming to double the number of SIs from c.2,250 internship enrolments per annum to c.4,500 per annum by 2025.

The Department wishes to assess market capability and capacity to administer and deliver a response. A virtual pre-market engagement event will take place on Wednesday 9 March and further details of the event will be shared with all those who have registered.

Please register an interest in attending (max two per organisation) to: sendbaea.commercial@education.gov.uk by Friday 4 March 2022.

As part of the market engagement, we wish to test views on areas such as:

- expertise and capacity required to successfully manage this potential opportunity
- delivery model, e.g. single supplier, consortium, framework, lots, managed service or any other appropriate vehicle
- mode of delivery to ensure local, regional, and national coverage
- potential barriers / challenges / issues to successful delivery and potential solutions
- effective partnership working between employers, education providers, local authorities etc.
- other potential opportunities which could be included in this programme
- key success factors of this programme and how to ensure the greatest positive impact for young people with SEND, their parents / carers, local authorities, employers and supported internships providers
- value for money

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £6,400,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

- Support to Local Authorities to establish and develop SEND employment forums, including payment and administration of section 14 grants
- Delivery of accredited job coach training programmes and training in systematic instruction
- Engaging and supporting employers to offer high quality work placements
- Establishing a sustainable audit process, to measure the quality of SI provision against a Quality Assurance framework

II.2.14) Additional information

This notice does not constitute a call for competition to procure any services for the Department. The procurement of any services will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The purpose of this PIN is to stimulate early market interest and invite interested parties to take part in preliminary market consultations.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 April 2022

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