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Planning

Regional Adoption Agency - Provider Panel for the Provision of Inter-agency Placements

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-004831

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-029a50

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall

DURHAM

DH15UL

Contact

Donna Iley

Email

donna.iley@durham.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC - North East (England)

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.durham.gov.uk

Buyer's address

www.nepo.org

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

www.nepo.org

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

Regional Adoption Agency - Provider Panel for the Provision of Inter-agency Placements

Reference number

DN524413

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Durham County Council is acting as the Lead Authority on behalf of the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) known as Adopt Coast to Coast.

Adopt Coast to Coast consists of:

- Cumbria County Council
- Durham County Council
- Together for Children

We are seeking to develop a Panel of Providers who are Voluntary Adoption Agencies that are registered with OFSTED to meet Adopt Coast to Coast's placement needs.

The Members of the Adopt Coast to Coast are subject to change in accordance with the membership of Adopt Coast to Coast. Any members of Adopt Coast to Coast will access this provider panel via an access agreement.

This will be an open and flexible arrangement where at the discretion of the Council(s) the Panel can be re-opened to allow additional Providers to join the Provider Panel.

On initial opening we wish to appoint a maximum of five Providers to the panel. During the lifetime of the contract the maximum number of providers on the panel is subject to change.

The procurement will be conducted by the County Council of Durham on behalf of the Contracting Bodies in the Adopt Coast to Coast.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £5,500,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Council wishes to seek a Panel of Providers that are registered with OFSTED and can undertake the following:

- To provide the details of prospective adopters at commencement of Stage 2 of the adoption process for RAA consideration as a suitable match for children of the members of Adopt Coast to Coast who have plans for adoption due to be considered by the respective LA Agency Decision Maker (ADM).
- These prospective adopters will be for the sole consideration of the RAA until such time as they are approved as prospective adopters by the respective Agency's ADM. Where a link has not been achieved by this time the details of the prospective adopters will be eligible to become available to other RAAs and LAs both regionally and nationally.
- Where a prospective adopter is willing to offer a home for children considered in the 'harder to place' categories for example large sibling groups (3 or more children), child with significant health or development needs, child from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background, an older child) aged (5 years or older) the details of this prospective

adopter will be shared prior to the commencement of stage 2 at a time decided by the Adoption Manager of that provider. Where a link is not identified by a date two months after the commencement of stage 2 then the Voluntary Adoption Agency reserves the right to seek a link through other RAAs and LAs both regionally and nationally.

II.2.14) Additional information

This will be an open and flexible arrangement where at the discretion of the Council(s) the Panel can be re-opened to allow additional Providers to join the Provider Panel.

On initial opening we wish to appoint a maximum of five Providers to the panel. During the lifetime of the contract the maximum number of providers on the panel is subject to change.

The Provider Panel Agreement provides for no form of exclusivity or volume guarantee by the Council(s) for Services from the Provider and that the Council(s) is at all times entitled to enter into other contracts and agreements with other Providers for the provision of any Services.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

12 March 2021

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