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Planning

Provision of an Independent Advocacy Service

Fife Council

F01: Prior information notice

Reducing time limits for receipt of tenders

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-005903

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-043c5d

Published 23 February 2024, 9:39am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Fife Council

North Street

Glenrothes

KY7 5LT

Contact

Katy Hope

Email

katy.hope@fife.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM72 - Clackmannanshire and Fife

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00187

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk

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

Provision of an Independent Advocacy Service

Reference number

SC0058

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Provision of an Independent Advocacy Service

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £389,865

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85300000 - Social work and related services
- 85310000 - Social work services
- 85312000 - Social work services without accommodation

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM72 - Clackmannanshire and Fife

Main site or place of performance

Fife

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Fife Council, on behalf of Fife Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), is publishing this Prior Information Notice (PIN) to notify the market of a future tender opportunity to provide an Independent Advocacy Service. Health Boards and local authorities have a statutory responsibility under a range of legislation affecting both children and adults to provide access to independent advocacy for specific groups of people. The commissioned service is aligned to the Partnership's Advocacy Strategy (2023 – 2026).

Fife's Advocacy Strategy 2023-2026 sets out the commitment to the provision of independent advocacy services in Fife and to improving awareness of access to services to ensure the best outcomes for people who are unable to speak up for themselves.

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership recognises the importance of advocacy in:

- Empowering people to access information, express their own needs, explore options and make their own, informed decisions.
- Ensuring that people's rights are not infringed and making it easier for people to exercise those rights and have their voice heard when decisions are being made about their care.
- Ensuring a safeguard for people who may be at risk of being treated unfairly due to circumstances that make them vulnerable.

Priority will be given to those individuals for whom the Partnership has a statutory duty to provide access to an independent advocacy service and for whom Scottish Government policy, guidance and standards gives precedence.

Aims of the Service: -

- Professional advocacy will be provided to vulnerable people, aged 16 and over, who are affected by disability, chronic illness or mental disorder, and who are unable to safeguard their own well-being, rights, care or other interests.
- Those eligible to receive this service specifically, but not exclusively, includes people with mental health issues, learning disabilities, personality disorder, physical disabilities, acquired brain injury, dementia and autistic spectrum disorders, as well as chronic illness.
- Professional advocacy will also be provided to children under 16 years who are subject to compulsory measures under the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, or are the subject of a Welfare Guardianship application, under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.
- A collective advocacy service will be provided for specific groups, where there is an

identified need. This will be negotiated with the service provider with consideration of available resources.

The current Advocacy Contract in place requires provision of professional advocacy for a minimum of 950 issues per year. The minimum number of issues which will be required from the new Contract, is yet to be determined. This will be fully clarified within the Contract Notice when this is issued.

This Contract will play a key role in ensuring that Fife's Advocacy Strategy (2023 – 2026) is successfully implemented. This Contract is a critical requirement. It will assist in ensuring that NHS Fife, Fife Council and the HSCP meet their statutory obligations and will also provide advocacy for a wider group of vulnerable people.

The service will be required to establish appropriate methods of supervision, recording and monitoring to ensure each referral is dealt with in a professional and appropriate way, and that the required outcomes are achieved.

The advocacy services can be provided by either paid staff, or volunteers, or both. All staff, whether paid or voluntary, must have the appropriate skills, experience, qualification, training and support necessary to meet the specific advocacy needs of the individual service users.

There is a requirement for the service provider to work in partnership with other advocacy and voluntary sector providers within Fife, including making and receiving referrals, and promoting advocacy services within Fife.

Due to the nature of this Contract, there is a requirement for a local Provider to carry out this contract.

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £389,865

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

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

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

12 April 2024

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: No

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.5) Scheduled date for start of award procedures

3 May 2024

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.2) Information about electronic workflows

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

VI.3) Additional information

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=758981.

(SC Ref:758981)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court

Whytescauseway

Kirkcaldy

KY1 1XQ

Email

katy.hope@fife.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom