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Tender

## **Provision of Independent Reviewing officer and Foster Carer reviews**

London Borough of Brent

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-006125

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-043cde

Published 26 February 2024, 2:26pm

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

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

London Borough of Brent

Brent Civic Centre

Wembley

HA9 0FJ

#### **Contact**

Mr Robin Goodacre

#### **Email**

[robin.goodacre@brent.gov.uk](mailto:robin.goodacre@brent.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

**I.3) Communication**

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

<https://www.londontenders.org/>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.londontenders.org/>

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

Regional or local authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Other activity

Children & Young People

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**Section II: Object**

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

**II.1.1) Title**

Provision of Independent Reviewing officer and Foster Carer reviews

Reference number

DN712845

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

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

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

Services

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

Supplier Engagement

Brent Council wishes to inform providers of its intention to publish a tender for the provision of statutory Children Looked After Reviews (Independent Reviewing Officer) and annual Foster Carer reviews. Prior to publication of the invitation to quote, the Council wishes to engage with suppliers and would like to invite you to a market engagement event where we will provide further information about the opportunity and future intentions for the service. We would also invite any feedback, expertise and experience you wish to share at the event.

The event will be held on 8th March 2024 from 3.00pm to 4.30pm, via Microsoft teams.

If you wish to attend please express an interest in the opportunity on the London Tenders Portal and send a message advising of your full organisation name, email addresses & the names of the 2 people (maximum) that will be attending the Teams meeting.

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 98000000 - Other community, social and personal services

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

A brief overview and background to the opportunity are provided below:

### **Background**

The Independent Reviewing Officer's (IRO) primary function is to act as a robust counterbalance to the Local Authority, by providing expert and independent quality assurance on the Local Authority's care planning and reviewing process for children and young people looked after (CLA) by Brent. This duty is executed through highlighting when positive outcomes are achieved for the CLA and flagging occasions when it has not been possible to progress a child's care plan.

A crucial part of the role is to champion the voice of the child to contribute meaningfully to the co-design of their care plan and to scrutinize action plans against their progress to ensure that the arrangements for the child's current and long-term care are in place.

The Foster Carer Reviewing Officer (FCRO) will conduct reviews with foster carers once a year, with a view to ascertaining the suitability of the Foster Carer and their capacity of demonstrating competence in meeting the needs of looked after children, in line with the Fostering Regulations and Fostering national minimum standards.

### **Service Overview & Local Context**

#### **Children Looked After**

The Service Provider will assist the Brent Reviewing Team by providing IROs to chair and participate in CLA reviews. The primary responsibilities of the IROs will be to incorporate the thoughts and voice of the child in their care plan and review targeted and achievable recommendations as part of the plan to enable positive outcomes. The IROs are also responsible to submit all appropriate documentation, within agreed timeframes and to standard, and hold the Local Authority to account for their performance in light of the legal responsibilities towards the child.

#### **Foster Carers**

The Service Provider will provide FCROs who will be responsible for conducting annual reviews of Foster Carers with an emphasis on monitoring the implementation of Fostering Panel recommendations, highlighting good practice, but also looking at concerns and allegations; addressing practice that falls below expected standards, including non-compliance with agreed plans and practice levels. This will ensure that the Brent CLA receive corporate parenting that is at a good standard.

As of 21st February 2024:

- There are 298 Brent children and young people Looked After (130 of whom are currently 16 years and older and 49, who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Children).
- There are 90 Brent Foster Carers

#### Service Volume

The expected Service Volume for the Service Provider will be to provide suitable FCROs/IROs to chair Foster carer reviews (circa 100 yearly) and CLA reviews for children that Brent Council has corporate parenting responsibility for. The majority of CLA reviews covered by the Service Provider will be focusing on the older young people cohort of 16 years plus, with some additional LAC reviews for younger children and young people (circa 330-350 review annually)

#### Contract Length & Budget

The contract term will be 2 years with an option to extend by a further 24 months (1+1).

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

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **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**

Open procedure

#### **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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

7 March 2024

Local time

5:00pm

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

#### **IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

9 May 2024

Local time

12:00pm

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

London Borough of Brent

London

Country

United Kingdom