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Planning

Housing Advisory / Advocacy Service

North Ayrshire Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-007095

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0445cb

Published 5 March 2024, 4:43pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

North Ayrshire Council

Cunninghame House

Irvine

KA12 8EE

Contact

Raymond Hamilton

Email

raymondhamilton@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1294324038

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM93 - East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00337

I.3) Communication

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

Housing Advisory / Advocacy Service

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 70333000 - Housing services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

North Ayrshire Council (the Council) provides advice and information to prevent homelessness and to assist homeless households to understand their rights, by providing an accredited in-house advice service within the Housing Services Homeless Advice Team (HAT). This free advice service is available to anyone over the age of 16 and is tailored to meet to individual needs and circumstances.

The procurement of independent advice, advocacy and information services from the third sector to be delivered across North Ayrshire will enhance the existing in-house provision and ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations. There is likely to be an increasing need for advocacy as indicated by an aging population, levels of deprivation within the local area and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

NAC welcomes expressions of interest from suppliers, by completing the questionnaire below and returning to raymondhamilton@north-ayrshire.gov.uk before close of business Monday 18th March 2024.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £227,253

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 70333000 - Housing services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM93 - East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland

Main site or place of performance

North Ayrshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Council requires to contract a Service which can provide independent advice, advocacy, and information provision for households at risk of homelessness. The Service Provider must also advocate on behalf of homeless people throughout the homelessness process, assisting them to enforce their statutory rights. As homelessness is not only a housing issue, we are looking for the Service Provider to adopt a pro-active approach to preventing homelessness.

Service Users requiring access to this advice, advocacy and information will have varying needs. The range of needs may include:

In housing need or threatened with homelessness who need housing advice to prevent homelessness and sustain accommodation across all tenures.

Independent advocacy to assist all Service Users to understand and enforce their housing rights. This will also involve giving Service Users the skills to take an active part in resolving their own issues.

Information and advice on welfare benefits and income maximisation to allow the Service User to stay in their own homes.

Advice and assistance to deal with rent arrears to prevent eviction/repossession.

People who are threatened with eviction from Council and Private Sector tenancies who require advocacy or representation to enforce their housing rights and undertake their responsibilities.

Owner Occupiers who are facing repossession.

Representation at Court/First Tier Tribunal with a Service User to assist them with the enforcement of their rights.

Advice and support to deal with repair issues which are posing a risk to the sustainability of a Service Users accommodation. A knowledge of Private Rented Sector Regulations will be required.

Any other housing related advice which may have an impact on security of tenure or access to housing.

There may be some cases where housing difficulties will be caused by underlying issues that the Service User may have and requires assistance beyond advice and information. The Provider is expected to identify these cases and refer the Service User onto the appropriate services. In these cases, the Provider should have clear referral pathways in place to make onward referrals for Service Users to the appropriate specialist services as required. All onward referrals must be recorded and details given to the original referring officer.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

22 March 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: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

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=759894.

(SC Ref:759894)