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Planning

NAC-5145 - Independent Advocacy Service for Children and Adults

North Ayrshire Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-007719

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03b38b

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

North Ayrshire Council

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Irvine

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Contact

Andrew Kerr

Email

Andrewkerr@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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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

NAC-5145 - Independent Advocacy Service for Children and Adults

Reference number

NAC-5145

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

North Ayrshire Council (“NAC”) on behalf of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP) are looking to notify the market of a future tender opportunity to provide an independent advocacy service. The commissioned service is aligned to the Partnership’s ‘Empowering Inclusion’ Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan (2022 – 2025).

The North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership recognises the importance of advocacy in:

Empowering people to express their own needs and make their own decisions

Enabling people to access information, explore options and make informed decisions

Providing a voice for people who are unable to speak or who do not use speech as a form of communication

Ensuring a safeguard for vulnerable people

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.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £2,547,156

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 1 - The provision of an independent advocacy service for children and young people.

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM93 - East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland
- UKM63 - Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Lot 1

Service Users

The advocacy service will make provision to offer advocacy for children and young people with a focus on the following:

Residential Care, Foster Care and Kinship Care

Children and young people with additional support needs (this includes autism; ADHD; Learning Disabilities, mental health issues and Physical disabilities such as sensory impairment etc.

Looked after at home

Children on the child protection register

Those children and young people receiving a service within the scope to the Mental Health Care and Treatment (Scotland) Act 2003.

Adolescents receiving a service within Foxgrove the Medium Secure Residential Unit within the grounds of Ayrshire Central Hospital.

Children/Young People in receipt of neurological developmental assessments conducted by or arranged by NHS Ayrshire and Arran Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Service Delivery

The Service will be delivered in an easily accessible and appropriate venue which is suitable for the child or young person; this will include within the home, in hospital, residential settings and other locations as appropriate.

Outcomes

Independent children's advocacy should follow an Outcome model using an outcome approach based on the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

The child or young person will chose and agree an achievable number of options from the GIRFEC well being indicators: Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included.

II.2.14) Additional information

NAC welcomes expressions of interest from service providers, by completing the questionnaire attached and returning to Andrewkerr@north-ayrshire.gov.uk before close of business Friday, 31st March 2023

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 2 - The provision of an independent advocacy service to adults 16 years and over.

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM93 - East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland
- UKM63 - Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Service Users

The advocacy service will make provision to offer advocacy for adults over 16 years with a

focus on the following:

Mental Health Care and Treatment (Scotland) Act 2003 and 2015 (the 2003 Act covers people who have a mental health issue, learning disability, autism or dementia). This will include assisting those individuals who require support at Mental Health Tribunals

Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

In receipt of social care. The Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland Report, 2021. Recommendation 8 states “more independent advocacy and brokerage services, including peer services, must be made available to people to ensure that their voices are heard, and help prepare for participation in planning and organising their support.”

The Scottish Governments Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards for Scotland. Standard 8: “All people have access to independent advocacy and support for housing, welfare and income needs”.

Older people, that is aged 65 and over.

Service Availability

The Service will be delivered in an easily accessible and appropriate venue which is suitable for the adult; this will include within the home, in hospital, residential settings and other locations as appropriate.

The Service will be delivered to those who are residents of North Ayrshire and those who are temporarily residing in North Ayrshire and therefore include those out of area inpatients in Woodland View low secure and residential rehabilitation wards.

Outcomes

The provider’s will ensure that they can deliver and demonstrate the following service outcomes.

National Outcome (1) – Independent advocacy supports people to be better informed about their rights, as well as understanding their needs and wishes and the choices they have. It increases their agency and power to choose their own actions freely, as much as possible.

National Outcome (2) – Independent advocacy supports people to recognise, understand and challenge power imbalances that influence their lives. It enables them to challenge these imbalances, to try and realise their rights, needs, and wishes. When someone is

unable to take personal action, their advocacy worker will ensure that their rights are upheld.

National Outcome (3) – Independent advocacy supports people to know that their voices have been heard and their needs and wishes understood.

Individual outcomes will include:-

People have a greater awareness, and understanding, of advocacy

People are more involved in decision making processes that affect their lives.

People have increased choice and control regarding their care arrangements

People are more able to advocate for themselves

People are more aware of, and able to access, their rights and entitlements.

People who use the service are involved in shaping the service and central to the development of a Quality Assurance Framework which is used to obtain stakeholder experiences of advocacy.

Services for both lots will also include:-

Parents of children subject to child protection procedures

People who face a disadvantage on the basis of protected characteristics i.e. ethnicity; disability; religion; age,gender; sexual orientation therefore those people from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities (LGBTQ)

Victims of domestic abuse (both male and female)

II.2.14) Additional information

NAC welcomes expressions of interest from service providers, by completing the questionnaire attached and returning to Andrewkerr@north-ayrshire.gov.uk before close of business Friday, 31st March 2023

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 June 2023

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=725126.

(SC Ref:725126)