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Planning

Attendance mentoring for persistently absent pupils - pilot project

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-007918

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-032588

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

2 St. Paul's Place

Sheffield

S1 2FJ

Email

sendbaea.commercial@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object**II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

Attendance mentoring for persistently absent pupils - pilot project

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Regular attendance at school is vital for children's education, wellbeing, and long-term development. The Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, has made clear that excellent attendance is a priority to ensure that all children can catch up on lost learning caused by the pandemic.

As announced in the Levelling Up White Paper, the department is planning a new attendance pilot in a group of Education Improvement Areas where there is a clear demographic need to improve persistent and severe absence rates.

Persistent and Severe absence are a concern across the education sector, raised in publications by, for example, the Centre for Social Justice and the Children's Commissioner. Mentoring to improve attendance has been suggested as a potential solution to this issue.

We are looking for a contractor that will recruit and train mentors to provide targeted 1 – 1 support with an identified pupil or their family to overcome barriers to attendance. This relationship will need to be reactive to the individuals needs with the overall end goal to improve attendance.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £5,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 72253000 - Helpdesk and support services
- 79633000 - Staff development services
- 79634000 - Career guidance services
- 80510000 - Specialist training services
- 80521000 - Training programme services
- 80532000 - Management training services
- 80570000 - Personal development training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This contract is to deliver an attendance support offer, initially for one year with the intention to extend to three years (total). The support offer will start in one identified priority Education Improvement Area (EIA) in the first year and aim to support 500-1000

pupils, with the option to scale up to multiple areas nationally and support larger volumes of pupils in years two and three. More information on EIA's can be found in the Governments Levelling Up white paper [here](#).

We need a supplier to support vulnerable children and families in each of the identified areas to improve attendance. Through this work we aim to enhance capacity for early help/intervention, by working with pupils who are persistently absent and focusing particularly on those pupils who are, or are at risk of being, severely absent (missing with