

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/009085-2023>

Contract

## **Building a research, innovation and improvement skills development approach for social care**

Social Care Wales

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-009085

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-036b85

Published 29 March 2023, 10:04am

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

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

Social Care Wales

South Gate House, Wood Street

Cardiff

CF10 1EW

#### **Email**

[procurement@socialcare.wales](mailto:procurement@socialcare.wales)

#### **Telephone**

+44 3003033444

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

## **NUTS code**

UKL - Wales

## **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.socialcare.wales>

Buyer's address

[https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0289](https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0289)

## **I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

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

Other type

Welsh Government Sponsored Body

## **I.5) Main activity**

Social protection

---

## **Section II: Object**

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

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Building a research, innovation and improvement skills development approach for social care

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

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

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

## Services

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

Maximise the impact of our work we recognise the need to increase knowledge skills & experience in research, innovation & improvement. This project will identify the needs & solutions to supporting skills development in these key areas.

We require a supplier to help co-design an approach to capability & skills building in research, innovation & improvement for people working in social work & social care in Wales by:

using a discovery phase, to understand & synthesise the research we already have & look at existing frameworks & initiatives across research, innovation & improvement

using design & co-production principles to engage with people in creative & innovative ways to gain nuanced understanding of their needs

assessing how well existing learning & development opportunities meet the needs of people working in social care, including how well known they are & whether the content is relevant & easy to access & identifying gaps in current provision

recommending a number of tangible, action-focussed alpha projects designed to meet those needs

designing longer-term, overarching approach for research, innovation & improvement skills development.

Produce early prototypes & support us to test out agreed alpha projects, which might include:

Using & signposting to existing initiatives but implemented in new & creative ways

Adapting existing initiatives for Wales & for social care

Piloting new approaches e.g designing new learning & development opportunities

By working in social work & social care we mean:

A wide variety of people including social workers, social work students, social care workers, managers, leaders & commissioners

Working in a wide variety of settings including local authorities, provider organisations (both independent, third sector & local authority), as well as settings like health, education & the

criminal justice system

Supporting children or adults

By skills we mean:

The skills people need to access, understand, use & generate research in their day-to-day work

the skills people would like to develop to take on bigger research projects &/or to pursue research careers

the skills people need to innovate in their day-to-day work & to support innovation in social care

the skills people need to continuously reflect on, improve & develop their work

The aim of this project is to inform the way Social Care Wales & Health & Care Research Wales support the development of research, innovation & improvement skills across social care in Wales.

We want partnership & collaboration to be at the heart of what we design as we know that linkages enhance research capacity & capability. We want to reuse, reimagine & embed existing learning & development opportunities wherever we can.

We'll use the output of the project to pilot, test & implement support for research, innovation & improvement. We recognise that social care is complex & that there is no single response that will meet all workforce needs, but we anticipate that support could include:

learning for research, innovation & improvement practice, for example, small scale capacity building programmes focused on the social care workplace

schemes designed to develop formal skills & careers, for example, funding postgraduate degrees

other creative ways of developing skills, for example, apprenticeships, coaching & mentoring, peer support.

We have an opportunity to take a creative & sustainable approach, which uses our existing learning. We anticipate that the first stage of the project will be to understand what we already know. We're also keen to learn from social care capacity-building projects elsewhere.

Most importantly, we want to focus on actions which will deliver better outcomes for people who use care & support in Wales. Our core goal is to make sure research, innovation &

improvement count by supporting them to happen in practice. The IMPACT Evaluation of the Social Services & Wellbeing Act has shown the gap between the rhetoric of the Act & the reality of many people who use care & support.

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

### **II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)**

Value excluding VAT: £173,333

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 73110000 - Research services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 73220000 - Development consultancy services
- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services
- 79315000 - Social research services
- 80000000 - Education and training services
- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

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

NUTS codes

- UKL - Wales

Main site or place of performance

TBC

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

Approach

We set out a suggested approach below but invite potential suppliers to improve or build on these suggestions. We will agree the detailed approach during the inception stage of the project.

- A discovery phase, to include:

- ~ a review of the user research and work we've already done

- ~ an understanding of the programmes and initiatives already in place in Wales (see Appendix 7)

- ~ a review of developments in research, innovation and improvement skills and capacity-building in social care across the UK (see Appendix 7)

- ~ a review of relevant policies and documents, to help potential suppliers understand the political and policy environment, including A Healthier Wales, the evaluation of the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, the Performance and Improvement Framework for Social Services and the draft Innovation Strategy for Wales.

- interviews, focus groups or workshops to gain a detailed understanding of user needs for research, innovation and improvement skills

- ~ a programme of creative, interactive co-design events that will also help build ongoing relationships between partners and people working and researching in social care

We need a supplier whose approach is:

- underpinned by user-centred design principles: committed to understanding the context of user need and the early and frequent involvement of users in the design process

- outcome and impact focused: seeking to understand intended outcomes for all partners involved in the project

- committed to improving equality, diversity and inclusivity in all areas of work: we want a supplier to support our strategic equality plan and help us towards Goal 6 of Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales action plan and support the principles of More than just words.

- supportive and open to existing ideas being dropped into the project, for example adapting Research Time Awards or aligning with our new social work post-qualification framework

- agile and iterative: we want to build on our experience of using agile methods to frequently iterate, reprioritise our work and pilot approaches early and often

- agile and collaborative: using a one-team approach and working in the open to maintain energy and communicate regularly with partners about the work.

We recognise a range of knowledge, skills and experience is needed to deliver this project and so we welcome consortia or collaborative bids.

Please see Specification for further information

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

Quality criterion - Name: Quality of written proposal and interview / Weighting: 75

Price - Weighting: 25

## **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

## **II.2.14) Additional information**

There is a budget of 130,000 GBP for year one of the contract - Phase 1 and 2 of this project should be delivered in Year 1. There is a budget of 25,000 GBP for year two of the contract and 25,000 GBP for year three of the contract, pending approval of contract extension(s). All costs are inclusive of VAT.

---

## **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: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2022/S 000-026895](#)

---

## **Section V. Award of contract**

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

1 November 2022

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 3

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 3

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 3

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 3

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

Social Finance

92 Albert Embankment

London

SE17TY

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

### **V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)**

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £150,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £173,333

---

## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

Responses may be submitted in either Welsh or English

Gellir cyflwyno ymatebion yn y Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg

(WA Ref:130337)

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

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

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079477501

Country

United Kingdom