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Planning

Regional SEND Mediation Advice, Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Services

Lincolnshire County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-009299

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03b756

Published 30 March 2023, 1:09pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices, Newland

Lincoln

LN1 1YL

Contact

Mrs Chelsea Wheeler

Email

chelsea.wheeler@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 7770642414

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKF - East Midlands (England)

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

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

Regional SEND Mediation Advice, Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Services

Reference number

DN663302

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80100000 - Primary education services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

On behalf of local authorities in the East Midlands, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is leading on the procurement of Regional SEND Mediation Services and is seeking engagement from the market to inform the specification and model for the new contract.

All local authorities are required to contract an impartial mediation and disagreement resolution service for children and young people with SEND and their families to access mediation advice, mediation services and disagreement resolution services as part of the single route of redress.

The East Midlands Region is made up of 10 Local authorities as listed below:

- Derby City
- Derbyshire
- Leicester City
- Leicestershire
- Lincolnshire
- North Northamptonshire

- West Northamptonshire
- Nottingham City
- Nottinghamshire
- Rutland

Procurement activity will commence, provisionally, on the 17th May 2023 with the new contract starting on the 1st November 2023.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85300000 - Social work and related services
- 85100000 - Health services
- 80200000 - Secondary education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKF - East Midlands (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Services for East Midlands Region.

On behalf of local authorities in the East Midlands, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is leading on the procurement of Regional SEND Mediation Services and is seeking engagement from the market to inform the specification and model for the new contract.

All local authorities are required to contract an impartial mediation and disagreement resolution service for children and young people with SEND and their families to access mediation advice, mediation services and disagreement resolution services as part of the single route of redress.

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Procurement activity will commence, provisionally, on the 17th May 2023 with the new contract starting on the 1st November 2023.

Lincolnshire County Council is seeking to understand the market and how suppliers can best meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families within the East Midlands Region.

Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Services are in place to allow children and young people with SEND and their families to seek unbiased advice and support with regards to any concerns and/or issues they have with regards to their health and/or education provision or elements of their Education and Health Care (EHC) plan.

Mediation Advice must be received before a family can approach the first-tier tribunal with an appeal. Mediation and disagreement resolution services are provided to help children and young people with SEND and their families resolve issues outside of the appeals process.

Following Covid the provision of mediation and disagreement resolution services moved largely to a virtual platform, this allowed the services to continue without the need for face-to-face meetings. This has proven to be successful and is likely to be the preferred model going forward.

We are preparing a pre-market questionnaire which will be open to any interested Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service Suppliers. The information received from

this survey will feed into the final contract specification to ensure the contract is fit for purpose and achievable. The survey will seek to help us better understand the service area and to potentially remove any possible barriers that would prevent a supplier working in the East Midlands Region. Headlines for the questionnaire will be:

- Contract duration
- Delivery of service
- Financial implications
- Capacity
- Contract Performance monitoring
- Contract Attractiveness
- Any Other Information

Your organisation does not have to be a provider in Lincolnshire or East Midlands already to participate. You may be looking for opportunities to deliver Mediation and Disagreement Resolution services on a larger scale or expanding to this region.

The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. To participate in the questionnaire, please log into ProContract (<https://procontract.due-north.com/>) and search for the project reference DN663302. If you currently do not have access to ProContract, you can register for a free account at the same web address

The results are for Lincolnshire County Council's use only. The information you provide will not be shared outside the 10 Local Authorities within the East Midlands Region and will remain strictly commercial in confidence.

For more information on the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 please visit <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/1530/contents/made> and for more information from the SEND Code Of Practice please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Thank you in advance for your time and interest in this information notice.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

17 May 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