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Contract

National Safeguarders Panel Management Service

Scottish Government

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-016962

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03d06d

Published 31 May 2024, 9:14am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw

Glasgow

G2 8LU

Email

caitlin.frail@gov.scot

Telephone

+44 1412420133

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM - Scotland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10482

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

National Safeguarders Panel Management Service

Reference number

659079

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85311300 - Welfare services for children and young people

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The requirement is for the operation and management of a National Panel of Safeguarders known as the 'Safeguarders Panel'.

Safeguarders are appointed by children's hearings or sheriffs where there is a requirement to safeguard the interests of the child in the proceedings. The Safeguarder provides the hearing and/or court with an independent assessment of what is in the child's best interest.

Safeguarders are independent from all other agencies involved in the Children's Hearings System and that independence of practice is a crucial aspect of the role. They are appointed by the Scottish Ministers. Portfolio responsibility falls to the Minister for Children and Young People.

The Contractor will make all the necessary arrangements to ensure national consistency in the management of Safeguarders in Scotland and that the required high standards are maintained throughout all Safeguarder appointments in line with the relevant legislation (Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011, the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Safeguarders Panel) Regulations 2012 and the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Safeguarders: Further Provision) Regulations 2012) and utilising the Practise Standards for Safeguarders and the Performance Support and Monitoring Framework.

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: £3,502,471.12

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Safeguarders are a well-established and valued element of the Children's Hearings System providing independent scrutiny of assessments and plans for children. However, the Safeguarder service had been prone to differing levels of quality in terms of recruitment, appointment and general practice due in part to the fragmented management arrangements across 32 local authorities.

The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") was passed by Parliament on 25th November 2010 and received Royal Assent on 6th January 2011. It is an Act of the Scottish Parliament to restate and amend the law relating to children's hearings and for connected purposes. One of the key provisions of the Act is the establishment of a National Panel of Safeguarders. Section 32 of the 2011 Act provides that Scottish Ministers must establish the Safeguarders Panel and also gives them a power, by regulation, to make provision in connection with matters relating to the Panel.

The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Safeguarders Panel) Regulations 2012 ("the 2012 regulations") include, among other things, provision on recruitment and selection, appointment and removal, training, fees and the operation and management of the panel.

The current supplier is Children 1st. There are currently around 140 serving Safeguarders in Scotland. As part of the contract, there has been the establishment of national Practice Standards and the development of a supporting Performance Support and Monitoring Framework (PSMF) that provides the structure for monitoring and assessing safeguarders' performance.

The Contractor will ensure the operation and management of the Safeguarders Panel between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday to Friday including some public holidays, where key partners such as the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS), Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and Children's Hearings Scotland

(CHS) are operating and where this is agreed.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 70

Price - Weighting: 30

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Option to extend for a further two 12-month periods at the sole discretion of the Scottish Government.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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: [2024/S 000-005220](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

659079

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

28 May 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

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

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Children 1st

83 Whitehouse Loan

Edinburgh

EH9 1AT

Telephone

+44 7891404042

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKM - Scotland

Internet address

<https://www.children1st.org.uk/>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £3,502,471.12

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(SC Ref:768053)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Edinburgh Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court

Edinburgh

EH1 1LB

Country

United Kingdom