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Planning

Independent advice and support for Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children (UASCs)

Home Office

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-022338

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02deb1

Published 8 September 2021, 10:45pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Home Office

London

SW1P4DF

Email

UASCsupportprocurement@homeoffice.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.gov.uk/home-office

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

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Independent advice and support for Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children (UASCs)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85300000 - Social work and related services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Home Office is seeking to procure the provision of independent end-to-end advice, support and signposting assistance throughout the asylum application process in England and Wales for Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children (UASC).

The content of this PIN, including the nature of works, services and estimated value, may be subject to change.

The contract will commence on 1st April 2022 and is expected to be in place for three financial years.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85311300 - Welfare services for children and young people
- 85312300 - Guidance and counselling services

- 85312310 - Guidance services
- 85312320 - Counselling services
- 85312400 - Welfare services not delivered through residential institutions
- 85321000 - Administrative social services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom
- UKJ4 - Kent

Main site or place of performance

Kent

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Home Office is the lead government department for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, fire, counter-terrorism and police. It is responsible for controlling migration for the economic benefit of the country and protecting its borders. It gives permission to those who wish to come to the UK to work or study. It also supports those with genuine protection needs who have come to the UK as asylum seekers, with humanitarian protection needs and those who settle as refugees. This includes work with some of the most vulnerable in our society and we put people at the heart of all that we do.

The Home Office has a duty under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to ensure that all functions “safeguard and promote the welfare of children,” and that “any services provided by another person pursuant to arrangements which are made by the Secretary of State are provided having regard to that need.” The future contract contributes to meeting this obligation, ensuring that UASC can adequately access the services and support they are entitled to. It is important operationally that this support is independent to the Home Office, in order to complement the asylum system functions delivered by the Home Office for UASC. Furthermore, for some children, who have a fear of state persecution in their countries of origin, support from a non-governmental organisation can be invaluable.

The Home Office is seeking to procure a provider or providers that will support its Section 55 duties. This will include, but will not be limited to, the activities set out below across England and Wales:

- Act in the best interests of children at all times, including having close regard to

safeguarding concerns.

Lot 1- Initial support for UASC at Dover port.

- Provide a 24/7 support service at the port of Dover. To provide initial advice and support appropriate to the needs of newly arrived children at the port, prior to them being taken into the care of a local authority.

Lot 2- Ongoing support for UASC across England and Wales

- Assist UASC, and those responsible for their care, to understand the end to end asylum process; including helping UASC to advise the Home Office of material changes in their circumstances, provide a general advice and signposting service to UASC following an asylum decision and as appropriate, inform the child of the Assisted Voluntary Returns programme, and provide impartial advice on this.
- As appropriate, act as Responsible Adults for children at substantive asylum interviews and other asylum process events.
- Where children do not have existing legal representation for their asylum application, to refer to a Legal Aid Agency accredited legal representative, or to offer the necessary information to the relevant social worker or carer.
- Assist children to understand their rights and responsibilities while being a looked after child in England, and to make relevant referrals as necessary to support them with this.
- Work with Local Authorities to make sure that children are receiving the right level of support, including but not limited to accommodation, education, and mental and emotional health support.
- As appropriate, assist the child to make positive cultural connections.

The content of this PIN, including the nature of works, services and estimated value, may be the subject to change.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85311300 - Welfare services for children and young people
- 85312300 - Guidance and counselling services
- 85312310 - Guidance services
- 85312320 - Counselling services
- 85312400 - Welfare services not delivered through residential institutions
- 85321000 - Administrative social services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Nationwide

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

4 October 2021

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

It is our intention to invite those suppliers that express an interest in this procurement to an early engagement session in September, subject to parties signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

The Home Office eSourcing is used for sourcing activities. Please follow the steps below to register your interest:

1. To express an interest, participants must first be registered on the Home Office eSourcing Suite. If you have not yet registered, this can be done online at <https://homeoffice.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html> by following the Register Here Link . Please note that, to register, you must have a valid DUNS number (as provided by Dun and Bradstreet) for the organisation which you are registering and who will be entering into a contract if invited to do so.

2. Email: UASCsupportprocurement@homeoffice.gov.uk

3. Title of email: Independent Advice and Support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs) Procurement - Expression of Interest,

Email to include: Organisation name, Contact name, E-mail address and telephone number.