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Contract

## **ESF Skills for Growth: Education – Early Years Workforce Upskilling**

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-024265

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-036459

Published 31 August 2022, 12:02pm

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

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

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

GMCA Offices, 1st Floor, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street

Manchester

M1 6EU

#### **Contact**

Ms Emily Taylor

#### **Email**

[ewsframework@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:ewsframework@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKD3 - Greater Manchester

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

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

Regional or local authority

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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**Section II: Object**

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

**II.1.1) Title**

ESF Skills for Growth: Education – Early Years Workforce Upskilling

Reference number

DN614274

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) looked to procure a lead organisation to deliver training which will support skills challenges facing businesses within the Education

sector across GM, particularly those working in an Early Years setting.

### **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: £1,499,992.50

## **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UKD3 - Greater Manchester

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

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) looked to procure a lead organisation to deliver training which will support skills challenges facing businesses within the Education sector across GM, particularly those working in an Early Years setting.

The Education sector impacts on each of our lives and can often determine future career paths and progression. It is also a huge employer within the region - employing almost 120,000 people - crucial to GM both as a provider of opportunities to work and as a facilitator for entering other sectors. The Covid-19 pandemic hit the sector hard, with nurseries, schools, colleges, and universities all experiencing periods of closure; forcing them to rapidly develop new ways of learning. The sector will continue to play a key role in the future of GM. Its workforce of today is developing our workforces of tomorrow however, there are systemic problems across the sector exacerbated by immediate skill gaps, highlighted in the Industry Labour Market & Skills Intelligence Report, which must be resolved.

Improving early years outcomes and school readiness levels is a priority in the Greater Manchester Strategy 2021-2031, the GM Children's Health and Wellbeing Framework, Population Health Plan, and the GM Children and Young Peoples' Plan. The early years workforce across GM is varied and comprises of practitioners, teachers, children's centre workers, family support workers, health visitors and social workers. Whilst some of these roles form part of the 'wider' Early Years workforce, they play an important role in improving outcomes of young children and their families.

To realise the ambition to improve early years outcomes, the early years workforce must have the right skills and competencies to help children achieve their potential. Feedback

from employers highlights particular challenges which this specification looks to address including:

- Awareness of child development and the impact covid has had on this. Employers feel that the impact of the pandemic is now being felt, particularly with younger people whose social and academic development is behind what would be expected for their age.
- SEND awareness and training for Early Years staff at Level 3+
- The need for flexible provision to meet the needs of both employers and employees, including evening and weekend learning. There should be an understanding that whilst staffing shortages and financial constraints remain - training staff is often difficult due to backfill costs when keeping to staffing ratios.
- Accredited online learning. Practitioners in the sector have commented that they have accessed more training online than ever before; online courses should be accredited wherever possible.

This opportunity was procured as a further competition under the Education, Work and Skills Flexible Procurement System and was ran as a restricted tender via the Chest.

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

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 60

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: Value for Money / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: Price / Weighting: 10

#### **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: Yes

Identification of the project

15S20C04129

## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Restricted procedure

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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

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

Notice number: [2020/S 175-423970](#)

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

### **Contract No**

DN614274

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

26 July 2022

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

Number of tenders received: 2

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

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

Acorn Training Ltd

Stoke-on-Trent

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD3 - Greater Manchester

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,499,992.50

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

The High Court (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

London

Country

United Kingdom