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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): ocids-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

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

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

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