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Tender

DCS/Aspirant Leadership Programme

Department for Education

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-026814

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

Published 11 September 2023, 1:52pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

Jess.ROBERTS@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com/>

I.3) Communication

Access to the procurement documents is restricted. Further information can be obtained at

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com/>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com/>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

DCS/Aspirant Leadership Programme

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The DCS/Aspirant Leadership Programme (currently branded as Upon) is in the last year of delivery and the contract expires in March 2024. We are now seeking to appoint a suitably experienced organisation to deliver the next iteration of the leadership programme from April 2024.

The Department for Education has funded a national DCS/Aspirant leadership programme since 2020. The programme comprises two strands:

- to provide leadership development training and support to DCSs in their first year within the role
- to provide training for aspirant DCSs, to equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed for the challenging DCS role, creating a pipeline of skilled, confident, and capable strategic leaders.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £2,500,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

UK

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Description of Services

The programme aims to equip DCSs in their first year in the role with the necessary skills and support needed to be exemplary leaders, whilst simultaneously creating a pipeline of effective future DCSs via the Aspirant strand. The programme will also seek to improve diversity amongst DCSs by recruiting Aspirants from a range of protected characteristics and socio-economic backgrounds, leading to greater DCS diversity as they progress through their careers.

The programme will need to flex and adapt to the changing landscape of the sector and the needs of DCSs whilst simultaneously creating a pipeline of future leaders who will be ready to become the effective, strategic and resilient leaders the sector needs. DCS will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to drive sustainable strategic improvement that will contribute to the improvement in outcomes for children and families.

Both programme strands will embed child and family centred thinking to help support the delivery of children's services within LAs. Content will also need to align with central government policy, including the recommendations from Stable Homes, Built on Love report.

Contract Term

The initial contract period will run until December 2026 and will be structured into the following:

- A set up period estimated to commence end of January 2024 (to last no longer than 12 months)
- Programme Delivery: 1st April 2024 - 31 March 2026
- Aspirant Coaching Period: Up to 9 month coaching period from 31 March 2026 – 31

December 2026

Contract Value

Funding available is structured as follows:

- £300k will be made available for the set up period, separate to the Programme Delivery Budget.
- Funding of up to £1.1m (VAT exclusive) will be made available each year for the first 2 years of Programme Delivery, including any activity undertaken in the Aspirant Coaching Period.

The Requirements that are the subject of this procurement are captured by PCR 2015 Chapter 3, Section 7 (Social and Other Specific Services); the so called "Light Touch Regime".

To register your interest to tender and view the tender documents, you will need to be registered as a supplier on the DfE Jaggaer eTendering portal, available at

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html>

Once registered the information will be accessible via the 'View Opportunities' link on the Homepage. Select the Opportunity Notice for DCS/Aspirant Leadership Programme; (ITT_2563) and this will take you directly to the live tender. The closing date for submitting your tender is 12pm NOON 23rd October 2023.

A Bidder Engagement Event will be held on 20 September 2023 to provide an overview of the procurement requirements. This will be an online event hosted on Microsoft Teams.

To book a place, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dcsaspirant-leadership-programme-bidders-launch-event-tickets-705442727187>

Following the publication of the If you cannot / or do not intend to attend the Bidder Event, we would welcome your comments/questions via Jaggaer by Tuesday 19th September, 12pm. Please use the Jaggaer e-procurement system <https://education.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html> to submit any questions you may have about the requirements and tendering procedure at this time.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £2,500,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

33

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The contractual term is set to expire in December 2026 with a possible extension(s) of up to two further Programme Delivery Periods of the DCS and Aspirant Strand. Any extension will be subject to satisfactory performance during the initial contract term, please refer to the Award Form of the Contract for further information

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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: 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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

23 October 2023

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Tender must be valid until: 23 April 2024

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

23 October 2023

Local time

12:00pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strands

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

The Authority will incorporate a voluntary minimum 10 calendar day standstill period at the point information on the award of the Contract is communicated to Potential Suppliers. Potential Suppliers who are unsuccessful shall be informed by the Authority as soon as possible after the decision has been made as to the reasons why they were unsuccessful. If any clarification regarding the award of the Contract has not been successfully resolved, The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No. 102) provide for aggrieved parties who have been harmed or are at risk of harm by breach of the regulations to take legal action

Any such action must be brought within the applicable limitation period. Where a contract has not been entered into, the Court may order the setting aside of the award decision or order the Authority to amend any document and may award damages.

If a contract has been entered into the Court may, depending on the circumstances, award damages, make a declaration of ineffectiveness, order the Authority to pay a fine, and/or order that the duration of the contract be shortened. The purpose of the voluntary standstill period referred to above is to allow the parties to apply to the Courts to set aside the award decision before the Contract is entered into.