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Award

Intensive Mentoring

Kent County Council

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-027828

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0372c5

Published 4 October 2022, 1:03pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Kent County Council

Sessions House, County Road

MAIDSTONE

ME141XQ

Contact

Stephen Lusk

Email

steve.lusk@kent.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3000410258

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ4 - Kent

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.kent.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

Intensive Mentoring

Reference number

SC220282

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

On the 21 July 2022, The Kent County Council Cabinet, approved a decision to extend the Reconnect Programme to 31 March 2023 for specific areas of need, including counseling and mentoring.

To engage in a procurement Commissioners would not be able to complete a tender process for such a short-term contract.

Regulation 32(2)(c) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 Negotiated Procedure without prior publication of a Contract Notice insofar as is strictly necessary where, for reasons of

extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the contracting authority, the time limits for the open or restricted procedures or competitive procedures with negotiation

cannot be complied with.

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: £123,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ4 - Kent

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Mentoring is delivered through Mentors (both paid and volunteers) who are positive role models who inspire, encourage and guide young people to achieve their potential. They offer personalised one-to-one support to help improve young people's lives. There are several features of effective mentoring programmes and relationships, including the duration of relationships, the quality of monitoring and support for mentors and allowing young people themselves to set the agenda. Some features of quality in mentoring relationships also may impact on outcomes, such as closeness, shared interests and role-modelling.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The coronavirus outbreak has unleashed unprecedented economic and health consequences, the full implications of which are still far from known. Covid-19 was only discovered in December 2019, and as recently as February 2020, there were hopes that the virus could be effectively contained within this country to minimise its effects. Had Covid-19 not developed, the HeadStart programme would have ended and Reconnect funding would have neither been allocated or necessary.

Reasons of extreme urgency

The decision taken by Cabinet on the 21 July 2022 to extend the Reconnect Programme to 31 March 2023 does not allow enough time to reprocure a new service ahead of the contract end in August 2022 or offer a desirable contract length for providers to wish to enter a procurement process. Commissioners advise that it would be more advantageous to enter a direct award for the following reasons:

In the light of the Covid-19 outbreak, there are serious concerns about the high demand for well-being services. Disrupting the current provision and creating a gap in service provision due to mobilisation would further exacerbate this situation.

YLF have long established roots and rapport with the local communities they serve with a strong focus on their volunteer mentors being part of both their community support and outreach services. It is this that has enabled them to continue delivering meaningful services when their primary face to face methods of delivery have ceased to be possible. Should an alternative provider be sourced, replicating this without the established relationships, would be extremely challenging, particularly if Covid restrictions were to be reapplied in the new year.

With the potential need for TUPE a seven-month contract is undesirable to the market. A range of providers were contacted in a soft market engagement to ascertain if 1) there was an interest in the contract and 2) if the organisations currently had capacity to undertake a formal procurement. Providers were unanimous in saying that capacity was a real issue to engage in a procurement with four out of the five saying at this time they would not be able to spare the resource for such a short-term prospect

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 September 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Young Lives Foundation

71 College Road

Maidstone Kent

ME15 6SX

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ4 - Kent

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £123,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £123,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Kent County Council

Maidstone

Country

United Kingdom