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Planning

DLEARN-Childcare Early Adopter Communities - Full Evaluation

Scottish Government

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-032682

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04a7c3

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Government

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

EH6 6QQ

Email

jennifer.brice@gov.scot

Telephone

+44 412425466

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM - Scotland

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10482

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

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

DLEARN-Childcare Early Adopter Communities - Full Evaluation

Reference number

722380

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79315000 - Social research services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Scottish Government, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, wishes to commission a process, impact and economic evaluation of six 'early adopter communities' who are testing out local, place-based approaches to childcare from the very early years up to the end of primary school.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £250,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79315000 - Social research services
- 79311410 - Economic impact assessment

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Scottish Government has committed to building a system of school age childcare that provides care before and after school, all year round, to support parents and carers – particularly on low incomes – to access secure and stable employment.

The School Age Childcare Transformational Change Programme was established to deliver this commitment. The Programme is taking a phased approach to policy design in order to test and refine what an effective system will look like in different communities, and to adapt and scale different approaches. This includes work within six ‘early adopter communities’ (EACs) to understand how to co-design local systems of childcare which will meet the needs of families living within those communities. This work is targeted at families most at risk of living in poverty, as set out in Best Start, Bright Futures, the Scottish Government’s tackling child poverty delivery plan.

In the 2023 Programme for Government, Scottish Government also made a commitment to expand the EACs to include families with younger children for the first time. This will mainly focus on children up to age three, given that all three- and four-year-olds (and eligible two-year-olds) are already entitled to 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare. In the coming year the EACs will conduct engagement work with families to better understand their needs in relation to childcare for younger children. Some limited delivery will also begin for families in selected communities where this engagement work has already taken place.

The contractor will be required to build on a first phase of evaluation of the EACs (which involved development of a theory of change and a monitoring and evaluation framework, an early process evaluation, and an evaluability assessment) and work with the Scottish Government to meet the aims outlined below.

This next phase of work is to provide robust findings on the impact of these community-based childcare projects on children and families, their economic benefit, and on how these changes are enabled. These findings will in turn inform both continuous improvement for local partners and wider local and national childcare policy.

The aims of this evaluation are:

1. Scope and refine a detailed evaluation approach, building on a preliminary evaluability assessment.

2. Work with leads and partners in the EACs to refine and improve monitoring and evaluation data, as required
3. Conduct a process evaluation across all 6 EACs
4. Conduct an impact evaluation across all 6 EACs
5. Conduct an economic evaluation across all 6 EACs.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

22 October 2024

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

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=780284.

(SC Ref:780284)