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Contract

Local Authority Childcare Sufficiency Support Contract

Department for Education

F20: Modification notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-032765

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0371b6

Published 6 November 2023, 12:20pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

Email

Ceri.DIXON@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Local Authority Childcare Sufficiency Support Contract

Reference number

con_19123

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80110000 - Pre-school education services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Local Authority Childcare Sufficiency Support Contract

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement at the time of conclusion of the contract:

This contract is for the provision of expert professional services (including peer support) to support local authorities (LAs) in fulfilling their statutory sufficiency duties. The support will be delivered in the Financial Years 2022-25 and will relate to supporting the delivery of sufficient childcare and early education places across local areas to meet parental demand for the early years entitlements and to ensure that there are sufficient places for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children) to enable parents to work or participate in education or training for employment.

The contractor will offer support to LAs in restoring or improving childcare sufficiency in their local areas through a mixed package of tailored support to diagnose sufficiency issues and assist LAs in implementing and embedding sustainable improvements. This

will be delivered by:

1. Providing reactive support and challenge to LAs identified as failing (or at imminent risk of failing) in their duty to secure sufficient childcare for parents to work or participate in education or training, and for children eligible for the early education entitlements.
2. Providing proactive preventative and improvement support and challenge to LAs to facilitate the maintenance or improvement of local childcare sufficiency.
3. Where appropriate, administering discrete project funding to support LAs to implement recommendations made during the reactive or proactive support activity at 1 and 2 above where available finances are evidenced as a barrier to achieving the desired outcome.
4. Providing an overarching project management function to enable 1, 2 and 3 above. This will include organisation of contract management activity including reporting and engaging with DfE, and evaluating support activity and funding outcomes.

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

End date

31 March 2024

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.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Contract award notice concerning this contract

Notice number: [2023/S 000-006612](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

con_19123

Title

Local Authority Childcare Sufficiency Support Contract

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract/concession award decision:

7 March 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

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

Hempsall Consultancies Limited

Phoenix Square, Studio 2 15 Morledge Street

Leicester

LE1 1TA

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (at the time of conclusion of the contract;excluding VAT)

Total value of the procurement: £825,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

National Audit Office

London

Country

United Kingdom

Section VII: Modifications to the contract/concession

VII.1) Description of the procurement after the modifications

VII.1.1) Main CPV code

- 80110000 - Pre-school education services

VII.1.3) Place of performance

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

VII.1.4) Description of the procurement:

The Supplier shall deliver a comprehensive and coherent package of delivery support (including challenge, where necessary) to LAs in fulfilling their sufficiency duties and to ensure that there is enough childcare across local areas to enable all young children to access high-quality early years provision, to meet the demand for childcare from parents of school-aged children (see Schedule 2 (Specification) for a full definition of LA sufficiency duties), and to deliver the expanded early years entitlements from April 2024. This will include peer support where appropriate and regional or national events by the Supplier to facilitate the sharing of expertise and best practice between LAs.

To achieve this, the Supplier will:

A. Provide reactive advice, support and challenge to LAs identified as failing (or at imminent risk of failing) in their duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents and children eligible for the early education entitlements, or LAs identified as needing support in their planning to deliver the expanded early years entitlements.

B. Provide events, materials, advice, support and challenge to LAs to facilitate the maintenance, planning for or improvement of local childcare sufficiency, including the expanded early years entitlements (for the entitlements or for other childcare where this directly supports parents to work or participate in education or training).

C. Where appropriate, provide additional financial support to LAs to implement recommendations made during support activity, where available finances are evidencable as a barrier to achieving the desired outcome and where this activity forms part of a support package agreed before 6th November 2023.

D. Provide an overarching project management function to enable and report on the 3 elements above.

VII.1.5) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

End date

31 March 2024

VII.1.6) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession:

£825,000

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Hempsall Consultancies Limited

Phoenix Square, Studio 2 15 Morledge Street

Leicester

LE1 1TA

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

VII.2) Information about modifications

VII.2.1) Description of the modifications

Nature and extent of the modifications (with indication of possible earlier changes to the contract):

This contract commenced in February 2023 and supports local authorities (LAs) at risk of not meeting their existing childcare sufficiency duty. Because this contract commenced before the expansion of the EY entitlements announced at Spring Budget 2023, the EY childcare expansion has been out of scope. This variation brings this expansion into scope for support from the supplier, to meet the needs of the sector and to better enable them to prepare for the childcare expansion.

VII.2.2) Reasons for modification

Need for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor/concessionaire.

Description of the economic or technical reasons and the inconvenience or duplication of cost preventing a change of contractor:

It is not possible to change contractor on the short timescales involved - this contract is being modified in the short term. It will also end early, due to announcements made at the Spring Budget 2023.

A procurement is underway for a replacement contract.

VII.2.3) Increase in price

Updated total contract value before the modifications (taking into account possible earlier contract modifications, price adaptations and average inflation)

Value excluding VAT: £825,000

Total contract value after the modifications

Value excluding VAT: £825,000