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Planning

Reducing Time to Family Court CAFCASS Delivery Partner

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-034717

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-041c60

Published 23 November 2023, 3:30pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

Vicki.GREGG@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>

Buyer's address

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

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

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Reducing Time to Family Court CAFCASS Delivery Partner

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The purpose of this PIN is to initiate market consultation and is not being used as a call for competition. The PIN is intended to:

1. Raise awareness with the market of a potential future procurement process and to enable time for organisations to begin early discussions with the Department and each

other as to how they may be able to deliver any future contract.

2. Inform the market that the Department will be undertaking market consultation activity during the coming weeks, to gather information about the supply market, to explore potential delivery models and associated benefits of those models, and to inform its understanding of the risks and issues relevant to managing transition to, and mobilisation of, any new service arrangements.

This will consist of a virtual event via MS Teams on Thursday 14th December at 2pm. If you are interested, please contact Sian.williams@education.gov.uk to arrange an invitation to the event. We intend to share the outcomes and any questions and answers from the event with all potential suppliers following the session.

- The services relate to the Department's aim to procure a delivery partner for a pilot aimed at reducing delays in public law proceedings in the family court. The pilot will specifically introduce a pre-Case Management Hearing (CMH) meeting between the Cafcass Guardian (CG) and Local Authority social worker to facilitate mutual understanding about the case, to ensure a smoother process through court. This is an information-sharing meeting, taking place after the issuing of care proceedings, but prior to the first Case Management Hearing. This will allow the Cafcass Guardian to gain a better understanding of the case and be better informed on the social work analysis of the timing of the application and reason for type of Order applied for. We would expect, for example, that that this increased clarity may reduce uncertainty that leads to requests for new expert assessments at the case management hearing, and facilitate a more effective process through court.
- A proof of concept pilot of this work is currently underway (August to December 2023), testing the pre-CMH meeting in 22 local authorities. We are now seeking a Delivery Partner to facilitate the national roll out of the substantive pilot from March 2024 to April 2025 . All local authorities across England will be encouraged to participate through an open expression of interest process.
- While we will work closely with the successful Delivery Partner to design the specifics of a programme of work, there are four main areas we expect the Delivery Partner to service:
 - Implementation and change management;
 - Supporting effective working relationships;
 - Spreading of learning; and
 - Oversight and monitoring

The DfE are seeking to contract the Delivery Partner to:

- Establish and maintain relationships with the key stakeholders and professionals involved in the pilot, including professionals from LAs, Cafcass and HMCTS to ensure successful delivery of the pilot.
- Set up and deliver workshops to provide training to professionals involved in the pilot, to support them in testing this meeting.
- Set up drop-in sessions and communications to enable regular access to support and feedback. Feedback may include any recommendations to refine the meeting structure.
- Provide ongoing support, training, information and advice for local authorities and partners through a range of methods of support.
- Collect qualitative and quantitative data and monitor progress of the initiative to the department, including regular reporting to the DfE.
- Support the Evaluation Partner to enable an effective independent evaluation of the pilot.

Alongside the Delivery Partner, an Evaluation Partner will also be commissioned to independently evaluate the implementation, delivery, and impact of the pilot on its intended outcomes.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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2. Inform the market that the Department will be undertaking market consultation activity during the coming weeks, to gather information about the supply market, to explore potential delivery models and associated benefits of those models, and to inform its understanding of the risks and issues relevant to managing transition to, and mobilisation of, any new service arrangements.

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II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

5 January 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