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Contract

Kinship Carer Training

Department for Education

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-034998

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

Published 28 November 2023, 9:13am

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>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Kinship Carer Training

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 services relate to the Department's aim to procure a package of training, information, support and advice for kinship carers in England. This is in response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care (Care Review) call on Government to deliver a training and information package of support for kinship carers and their families.

Kinship carers are relatives or friends who raise children who cannot safely remain with their parents. Across the UK more than 150,000 children are living with kinship carers – significantly more than are in the care system and many more than are adopted, making kinship care an important element of the children's social care system.

These children have often suffered similar adversities to those in the care system. These include parental substance misuse or mental or physical incapacity, domestic violence, imprisonment, teenage parenthood, parental separation or death. Child protection concerns are common. At least 20% of children raised in kinship care are affected by some degree of emotional and behavioural difficulties¹.

The charity Kinship's 2022 annual survey "The Cost of Loving"², found that the provision of local authority support and information for kinship carers is inadequate, risking significant costs for children, families, and the state. The survey found that 78% of carers felt they did not receive the support they needed from their local authority in order to meet the needs of their kinship child(ren), an eight-percentage point increase on last year's survey. It also found that less than a third of carers received information about being a kinship carer before or shortly after the child moved in, and only 28% had been signposted to other places they could access support.

There is currently no national training and support offer for kinship carers, and what does

exist is highly variable across different local authorities. Some organisations within the sector offer support, however none of that support is funded by the government. Some kinship carers attend foster carer training; however, the training isn't tailored to their specific needs (e.g. managing contact with a birth parent is different for a foster carer vs. a kinship carer).

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: £2,924,771.02

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

for the services of training, information, support and advice for kinship carers in England.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 1 year options

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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2023/S 000-012876](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Kinship Carer Training

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

17 October 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Grandparents Plus t/a Kinship

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £2,924,771.02

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Country

United Kingdom