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Planning

National Workload Action Group Secretariat and Lead Delivery Partner on Best Practice Guidance for Retention and Agency

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-035648

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0391df

Published 16 December 2022, 11:47am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

Jess.ROBERTS@education.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 12345678

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main 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

National Workload Action Group Secretariat and Lead Delivery Partner on Best Practice Guidance for Retention and Agency

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This PIN is for market engagement only. It does not signify the commencement of any

procurement process and does not constitute any commitment by the Department for Education. If the Department for Education decides to commence any procurement process as contemplated by this notice, a separate notice will be published at the relevant time. The requirements and values set out below may be subject to change.

The children social care sector is facing significant social worker retention pressures and challenges with social worker recruitment agencies. To support the sector in its response to this, it is the Department for Education's intention to undertake a procurement exercise to appoint a suitably experienced organisation to deliver the following high level objectives relating to child and family social work:

- 1) deliver a secretariat role to convene a group of sector and practice experts to identify unnecessary workload drivers for social workers;
- 2) deliver the solutions recommended by the group;
- 3) produce tools and guidance to support Local Authorities with social worker retention; and
- 4) produce tools/guidance to support Local Authorities in the engagement of agency social workers.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £1,300,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services
- 85300000 - Social work and related services
- 85310000 - Social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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- 3) produce tools and guidance to support Local Authorities with social worker retention; and
- 4) produce tools/guidance to support Local Authorities in the engagement of agency social workers.

More detailed overview of the Required Services:

As the lead organisation, act as a secretariat to bring together panel members that have been selected by the DfE to form a National Workload Action Group (NWAG) on a regular basis as determined by DfE. The purpose of the NWAG is to consider drivers of unnecessary workload and to develop solutions so that social workers have enough time to spend working directly with children and families.

The lead organisation will be responsible for working with the NWAG to identify appropriate action/solutions/outputs that reduces workload. It will also be required to deliver the identified solutions and outputs from the NWAG (either by procuring 3rd parties or performing the work directly).

Separate to the work of the NWAG, the same organisation would be required to:

- Source and/or produce tools and guidance on areas that impact social worker retention to complement the Social Worker Employer Standards Health Check for example on wellbeing, supervision and effective workforce planning systems

- Source and/or produce tools and guidance to support LAs in the engagement of agency social workers.

To provide further information on the opportunity a market engagement webinar will be held on 8th February 2023 14:00 – 16:00. This will be an online event hosted through Microsoft Teams platform.

This session will include a presentation at which representatives from the Department will provide information to potential suppliers about the proposed scope of the services and how we intend they will be procured. This will be followed by a Question-and-Answer session where potential suppliers will have the opportunity to ask questions of Departmental representatives.

To register for the event, you will need to be registered as a supplier on the DfE Jaggaer eTendering portal, available at <https://education.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html>. Once registered the event will be accessible via the 'View Opportunities' link on the Homepage.

The closing date for registering your interest in the market engagement event is 17:00 GMT on 6th February 2023.

Please use the Jaggaer e-procurement system <https://education.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html> to submit any questions you may have about the requirements and tendering procedure at this time.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

28 February 2023

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