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Contract

Fosterlink Service - Foster Carer Recruitment

Department for Education

F20: Modification notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-039767

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03e1a1

Published 10 December 2024, 2:24pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

Email

Emily.KITCHING@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

Fosterlink Service - Foster Carer Recruitment

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85320000 - Social services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.2) Description

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:

The Department for Education has appointed a contractor for the provision of Fosterlink Service. The successful contractor will be responsible for developing, co-ordination and managing Fosterlink a support service for Local Authority (LA) fostering service providers, which will offer in-depth diagnostic support specifically focused on their recruitment and approval practices, with the aim of providing bespoke recommendations for improvement, alongside building a strong evidence base on which to share good practice nationally.

The initial contract term will be 16 months. The contract is expected to commence on the 01 December 2023 and run until 31 March 2025. There will be an option to extend its term for an additional period of 12 months. The optional extension will be subject to supplier contract performance, the requirements of the Department, the outcomes of the upcoming Spending Review and the steers of the party in leadership following the General Election at the end of 2024.

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

Duration in months

16

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: [2024/S 000-001892](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

1

V.2) Award of contract/concession

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

11 January 2024

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

Mott Macdonald Limited

Croydon

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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: £571,621

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Courts of Justice

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

- 85320000 - Social services

VII.1.3) Place of performance

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

VII.1.4) Description of the procurement:

The Department for Education has appointed a contractor for the provision of Fosterlink Service. The successful contractor will be responsible for developing, co-ordination and managing Fosterlink a support service for Local Authority (LA) fostering service providers, which will offer in-depth diagnostic support specifically focused on their recruitment and approval practices, with the aim of providing bespoke recommendations for improvement, alongside building a strong evidence base on which to share good practice nationally.

The initial contract term will be 16 months. The contract is expected to commence on the 01 December 2023 and run until 31 March 2025. There will be an option to extend its term for an additional period of 12 months. The optional extension will be subject to supplier contract performance, the requirements of the Department, the outcomes of the upcoming Spending Review and the steers of the party in leadership following the General Election at the end of 2024.

The contract was varied in December 2024 to include some additional work under the

same scope.

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

Duration in months

16

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession:

£627,282.21

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

Mott Macdonald Limited

Croydon

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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):

Inclusion of additional diagnostic work with local authorities (LAs) who are part of the Department's North East Pathfinder Fostering recruitment and Retention Programme.

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:

Section 72, clause (1)(e) of The Procurement Act 2015 applies, which states that changes can be made where:

(e)where the modifications, irrespective of their value, are not substantial within the meaning of paragraph (8);

This change would not be classed as substantial. In addition to this, it would also create substantial duplication of costs for the Department and so clause (b) would also apply.

VII.2.3) Increase in price

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

Value excluding VAT: £571,621

Total contract value after the modifications

Value excluding VAT: £627,282.21