**Market Engagement Questionnaire**

**Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service for the South East Mediation Group (SEMG)**

**The Service**

Oxfordshire County Council is looking to commission and procure a SEND Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service providing impartial and independent disagreement resolution, mediation information and mediation services to young people and parents. It will also include a Single Provider Framework to allow the South East Mediation Group (SEMG) access to call off contracts with the Provider. The proposal is for a five-year contract.

The Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service will ensure that Local Authorities in South East Mediation Group can be confident they will fulfil their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014. The Children and Families Act 2014, along with the accompanying Regulations and statutory guidance, SEND Code of Practice:0-25 2015, brings about significant reforms to the systems surrounding special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for children, their parents and young people up to the age of 25.

We are inviting providers to consider responding to the below questions in relation to the scope and future contract arrangements:

**Q1** Have you experience in delivering a SEND Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service? If so, where is your service and which LA’s is it for?

Answer 1

**Q2** Do you have any current plans to expand your Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service to other areas, and if you do would you share your strategy with us?

Answer 2

**Q3** Are you able to disclose either the total costs of your Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service and how this is broken down?

Answer 3

**Q4** Would you be interested in tendering for this opportunity?

Answer 4

**Q5** If so, what your approximate costs would be for a Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service and how this would be broken down?

Answer 5

**Q6** What staffing structure would you expect to have in place and how would you support a mediation and resolution service across the South East Region?

Answer 6

**Q7** What challenges and risks do you envisage in tendering, implementing the contract, and running the services and what mitigations would you expect to be in place?

Answer 7

**Q8** The current Local Authority Membership for the SE Mediation Group is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bracknell Forest | Brighton & Hove |
| East Sussex | Essex |
| Kent | Medway |
| Oxfordshire | Portsmouth |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | Southampton |
| West Sussex | Cambridgeshire |
| Surrey | Croydon |
| Buckinghamshire | Hampshire |
| Wandsworth | West Berkshire |
| Wokingham | Richmond and Kingston (tbc) |

What would prevent you from tendering for Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service on behalf of the SEMG? Is this likely to change in the future?

Answer 8 –

**Q9** Would you be happy for us to contract you for further information?

Answer 9

Please note this request and your response is not part of a formal tender exercise. The new tender, if Oxfordshire County Council decides to progress with this, will be advertised on the ProContract Proactis portal https://procontract.due-north.com/Register **separately**. We will message everyone who has expressed interest when the tender goes live.

**Tell us a bit about your organisation (voluntary):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact Name: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Tel: |  |
|  |  |
| Business name: |  |

Please respond by Friday 26th July 2024.

Thank you for taking time to provide us with some information. If you have any queries, please contact me via the portal using the ‘Messages & Clarifications’ panel, or directly by email.

All responses will be confidential and not shared outside the Procurement & Commissioning team within the South East Mediation Group.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte Golby

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