**Prior Information Notice**

**This notice is for prior information only**

**Name and addresses: Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU**

**Information about joint procurement**

**Type of the contracting authority**

**Main activity**

General public services

**Scope of the procurement**

**Title:**

Youth Homelessness Prevention: Social Investor Support

**Type of contract – Services Contract**

GMCA and other local commissioners intend to commission a social investment fund management organisation to partner on the co-design and co-development of an investment case to support a new model of homelessness prevention for under 35 year olds delivered through a social outcomes based contract. GMCA are inviting expressions of interest in this opportunity. Our expectation is for this partnership to be undertaken at the cost and risk of the social investment organisation, in anticipation of a potential subsequent social investment opportunity. The social outcome contract proposed is described below.

***Social Outcomes based contract:*** estimated total value: c.£8m for the length of the contract based on and subject to confirmation of Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s Reform Investment Funding allocation and co-funded through contributions from other local commissioners across Greater Manchester. Anticipated 3 or 4 year contract.

*The GMCA is committed to ensuring fairness, openness and transparency, and to following EU procurement regulations. The Prior Information Notice (PIN) is however, issued solely for the purpose of conducting pre-procurement market engagement.*

*Interested parties will not be prejudiced or advantaged by any response or lack thereof to the PIN and a response to this PIN does not guarantee any invitation to participate in any future procurement.*

*This PIN does not constitute a call for competition to procure any services, supplies or works for the GMCA. The purpose of this PIN is to identify any credible social investment fund management organisations interested in working with commissioners and stakeholders to develop an investment case for the programmes outlined above.*

*The GMCA is not liable for any costs, fees, or expenses incurred by any party in replying to the PIN.*

**1 PURPOSE**

Greater Manchester Combined Authority are looking for a social investment fund managers to work with provider(s) and local commissioners to co-design and co-develop a new response to preventing youth homelessness in Greater Manchester and are inviting expressions of interest in this **opportunity**. Our expectation is for this partnership to be undertaken at the cost and risk of the social investment organisation, in anticipation of a potential subsequent social investment opportunity.

**2 BACKGROUND**

The GM Reform Investment Fund (RIF) was agreed with Government as part of the fourth Devolution Agreement for Greater Manchester announced alongside Budget 2016. The RIF has been established in order to provide a vehicle through which different Government funding lines could be brought together into a single GM pot to be invested alongside other local funding in driving system wide reform. It also provides a fund through which GM can seek to tackle some of its biggest challenges through investing in innovative responses and where possible seeking to tackle these issues further upstream.

As part of the agreement with Government the Department for Communities Media and Sport agreed an allocation from the national Life Chances Fund would be allocated to the GM Reform Investment Fund on the understanding that GM would invest in outcomes based contract. Engagement with senior leaders from Local Authorities and partners including key providers have indicated that preventing youth homelessness is an issue that there is an appetite to tackle through this approach. Subsequent analysis has been undertaken to support this aim and GM is now in a position where it is keen to understand interest from social investors in this project in advance of direct engagement with potential providers.

**3 The Challenge / Ambition**

Homelessness and rough sleeping is a significant priority for Greater Manchester. The latest version of Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS)[[1]](#footnote-1) set out the following ambition

* End rough sleeping in Greater Manchester by 2020
* Be a national leader in ending rough sleeping and reducing homelessness

Under challenging circumstances Greater Manchester is already invested in a number of high profile projects that collectively are seeking to tackle rough sleeping and reduce homelessness through investment in innovative projects and approaches. This includes the Housing First project, the Homelessness SIB, GM Homelessness trailblazer and A Bed Every Night. These projects are collectively helping to support many vulnerable people often once they have reached crisis point. There remains a challenge in how we can truly get upstream to prevent people becoming homeless in the first place. We also must recognise that for some people, particularly vulnerable young people there can be an issue with the suitability of provision such as the A Bed Every Night scheme. Indeed these issues were identified as important issues to be addressed by the recent review of A Bed Every Night undertaken by Dame Louise Casey at the request of GMCA.

Against this background GM is looking to invest in a project that will provide young people who are either homeless or at risk of homeless with a targeted intervention aimed at either preventing these circumstances whilst also equipping them with the tools they need for life and work.

Over time, and with evidence based improvements across the homelessness prevention landscape, the “system” should deliver more successful homelessness prevention interventions. This project therefore needs to not only provide a viable alternative for young people that are presenting as homeless or at risk of becoming homeless but needs to find a way in which learning can be shared and utilised in order to support this change.

As such, we believe the Youth Homelessness Prevention Intervention warrants a much stronger strategic focus from policy makers, who recognise the important proactive role that can be played by homelessness service providers of all kinds, not as passive recipients of funding but as key strategic planning and delivery partners at the heart of the communities, places and economies that they serve.

**4 PROCUREMENT APPROACH**

Innovative commissioning will form a central part of our approach to delivering GM’s objectives, focussing the system on outcomes, and addressing the funding priorities set out below. Working with a social investor/fund manager the commissioning process will:

* support GM working with existing high quality VCSE providers maximising local capacity, reducing duplication and bringing in new interventions where required
* allow GM to explore flexibility and innovation through the contracts in line with the freedoms and opportunities devolution offers
* allow GM to develop and maintain a competitive, high quality marketplace
* enable GM to undertake comprehensive due diligence: providing the best possible value for money outcome from the procurement activity
* secure additional social value for GM’s residents and communities
* develop an environment for shared learning and collaboration from the earliest stage possible
* embed new approaches within the wider context of GM’s strategy for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping but with a focus on prevention infrastructure
* assist in developing a place-based Youth Homelessness Prevention offer

The GMCA intends to procure this service by using The Competitive Procedure with Negotiation Process undertaken via The Light Touch Regime **(CPV Code 75200000-8).** The Process will allow GMCA to facilitate innovative solutionsand design inputsrequired for these services. An Indicative timeline can be found below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Date** |  |
| **Market Engagement Events** | January 2019  | Engagement |
| **Issue of Supplier Suitability Questionnaire and Invitation to Tender (ITT)**  | Early February 2020  | Application Period |
| **Expected date for submission of Tenders (stage 1)** | Early March 2020  |
| **Evaluation and Negotiations on Tender (stage 1)** | Early March – End of March 2020  | Tender Evaluation Period (Stage 1) |
| **Notification of result or issue of ITT** **(Stage 2)** | 1st Week In April  | Tender Period (Stage 2 (if required) |
| **Expected date for submission of Tenders (Stage 2** | W/c 20th April 2020  | Tender Period Stage 2  |
| **Evaluation clarification on Tender Stage 2)** | W/c 27th April -  | Tender Evaluation Period (Stage 2) |
| **Contract Signature and Mobilisation**  | May Onwards  | Contract Period |
| **Contract Start** | June/July 2020  | Commencement  |

**5 CONTRACT**

The purpose of this PIN is to identify a social investment fund management organisation to work with provider(s) and commissioners to co-design and co-develop a new response to preventing youth homelessness in Greater Manchester through a social outcome contract detailed below: .

Based on GM’s allocation of RIF, the value of procured activity for the contract will be c. £8 million, subject to securing match funding of c.£4 million from GM Commissioners.

With this in mind, GMCA’s intention is that contracts awarded from this procurement will last for 3 or 4 years. GMCA reserves the right to extend contracts for a second and third period of up to 12 months subject to funding availability, the provider’s delivery and performance against the contract, and including any changes to the overall GM budget arising from the Spending Review or adjustments to the way in which GM’s allocation is calculated by central government.

**Expression of Interest Process**

Step 1 – Interested potential providers are required to complete the following documents:

1. General Information
2. Undertaking by Potential Providers; and
3. Request for Information

and upload their completed documents onto The Chest portal via the Messaging Service by **12:00 on Friday 20th December 2019**

1. **General Information**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Full name of your organisation: |  |
| Contact Details - Name: |  |
| Job Title: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Telephone no: |  |
| Fax No: |  |
| Mobile No: |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Web Address (if any): |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Current legal status of the Potential Provider (e.g. partnership, private limited company, etc.). Please tick 1 box |
| Sole Trader |  |
| Partnership |  |
| Public Limited Company |  |
| Private Limited Company |  |
|  | Other ( please state) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Company Registration: |
| Registration Number: |  |
| Date of Registration: |  |
| Registered Address: |  |
| VAT registration number: |  |
|  | Brief Description of Primary Business activities and services  |  |

1. **Undertaking by the Potential Providers**

I/We certify that the information supplied is accurate to the best of my/our knowledge and I/we accept the conditions and undertakings requested in this document.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name\* |  |
| Signed | Duly authorised on behalf of the Potential provider(Electronic signature required here) |
| Position |  |
| Date |  |

**Please submit your expressions of interest to our Market Testing Exercise in a written document, maximum of 1,500 words**.

Responses should include particular reference to:

* Your understanding of social investment models, including examples of your previous experience of social investment in social outcome contracts in the UK
* Your understanding of homelessness and rough sleeping
* Evidence that you are able to work as part of a learning environment that seeks to support ‘system change’ (distinct from contract delivery) in addition to addressing the needs of a specific cohort – please detail your approach to supporting GMCA and local partnerships based on your experience
* Evidence that you recognise the devolved context that GM is operating in and how you can make a positive contribution to its ambitions
* An understanding of the needs of the proposed cohort, how you would contribute to refining the approach, the current challenges in the system and how a preventative approach can make a difference for vulnerable cohorts
* Acknowledgement of the practical considerations outlined in this PIN, including the need for the development work to be funded at your own cost and the opportunity and risk inherent in any potential future investment

**Please send your submission via The Chest Procurement Portal before 12:00 on 20th December 2019.**

The information you provide to GMCA will be to assess interest in the market. Dependent upon the response to this PIN the authority will determine if this requirement will form the basis of a competitive procurement process. If a competitive procurement is to take place the authority will inform those organisations who have registered an interest as described above with more information.

1. *Our People, Our Place: The Greater Manchester Strategy* (GMCA, October 2017) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)