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TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Soft Market testing**

Tameside Family Peer Support Programme

Chest Ref: DN719022

Contract Period:

**1st April 2025 – 31st March 2028 (3 years)**

1. **BACKGROUND**

Tameside Council would like to take the opportunity to do some ‘soft market testing’ to determine current interest levels in the market.

1. **OVERVIEW OF THE TAMESIDE PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

**2.1 Aim of the Service**

The aim of the Tameside Peer Support Programme is to develop and deliver support individually tailored to families, through a peer support model, using strength-based and relational approaches.

The Tameside Peer Support Programme aims to support families with children aged between 0-5 years, with a series of low level needs in relation, but not exclusive, to: child development (namely speech, language and communication); child health and wellbeing, such as oral health, food, nutrition, physical activity and childhood injuries; the effects of the cost of living crisis; and parental needs, such as mild mental health and parenting.

**2.2 Objectives of the Service**

The objectives of the Tameside Peer Support Programme are:

* To deliver a service that utilises a range of evidence-based interventions in relation to the topics described above with an emphasis on peer relationships.
* To align the service delivery, including pathways and processes, to the Tameside early years and Early Help neighbourhood model.
* To use and support a wide range of local assets when supporting families, such as greenspaces, community groups and community venues, as well as supporting registrations with and informing access to universal and community services, such as family hubs.
* Ensure families understand and access their free entitlement funding, such as tax free childcare etc.
* To support and contribute to Early Help assessments as appropriate.
* To ensure a high quality supervision model for staff/volunteers that adheres to safeguarding and local Early Help procedures, such as the MARRS.
* To recruit and train volunteers to work as peer supporters, providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver the service and improving their personal confidence, building social capital and enhancing opportunities for further training and employment.
* To ensure staff working within the service have the appropriate qualifications and receive/access joint training within the integrated teams that is required to enhance their knowledge, competencies, skills and experience to deliver all the elements of the service. This includes an appropriate skill mix whilst maximising the use of specialist skills in the most efficient way. This will include restorative practice and signs of safety.
* To proactively promote the service within communities, to engage families to take up interventions and to work with communities to develop new projects and initiatives.
* To work collaboratively with partners to support and develop the Starting Well Programme in Tameside.
* To work with commissioners to monitor the progress of service, including the development of an outcomes framework and evaluation plan.

**2.3 Enabling principles and approaches**

The principles and approaches of the Tameside Peer Support Programme align to Tameside Early Help Strategy, as well as the [Tameside Corporate Plan](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/policy/Our-People-Our-Place-Our-Plan-DEC19.pdf). The service will also be expected to deliver in align with principles of the developing Early Years Strategy.

Specifically the service will:

* Ensure we will listen to children and families and treat them as partners – ‘Nothing about me, without me’. As such families should be able to work with the service to co-produce interventions.
* Take an asset based approach that recognises and builds on the strengths of individuals, families and the local communities rather than focussing on the deficits. As such the service should use strengths-based approaches when working with families including volunteering and peer support to enable behaviour change that builds independence and supports families to be in control.
* Take a place-based approach that redefines services and has individuals, families and communities at the heart. As such the service will be an equal player when working with other services and an equal contributor in the early years and Early Help offer and within the integrated neighbourhood teams; as well as make use of local assets such as greenspaces, family hubs and community centres.
* Be evidence led and understand the impact of using the right intervention at the right time. As such the service will work closely with local partners using evidence based resources such as Solihull Parenting, ICON and Wellcomm. The service, will support families to understand and use child development tools such as ASQ, and will use tools such as the Graded Care Profile when relevant.

**2.4 Outcomes**

The Tameside Peer Support Programme will achieve a number of outcomes, including but not limited to:

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| **Outcomes for the family** | **Outcomes for the Local Authority / local system** |
| * Improved health related behaviours for both adult(s) and child(ren), for example: registration with dentists, attendance at appointments and encouraging smoke free families; * Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing for both adult(s) and child(ren); * Improved parent-child relationships and attachment; * Greater achievement of child development milestones and school readiness; * Increased access to the free entitlement funding, benefit/welfare entitlements and support; * Improved family/household skills, including budget management; * Improved access to wider services. | * Increased use of community services for families. E.g. health visiting, family hubs etc.; * Increased support through Early Help approaches; * Increased partnership working; * Improved access to wider services; * Delivery of public reform and co-operative principles; * Reduction in children living in poverty; * Reduced number of children and families requiring social care and/or safeguarding intervention. |

The provider of the Tameside Peer Support Programme will work with the Commissioners to develop a performance and evaluation framework to measures the outcomes outlined.

1. **PROJECT TIMESCALES**

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| --- | --- |
| **Stage of the project** | **Anticipated deadline** |
| Soft market testing | April 2024 |
| Progress to tender | August 2024 |
| Closing date for suppliers to have submitted documents | September 2024 |
| Result of Procurement Process | December 2024 |
| Contract Start Date | 1 April 2025 |

1. **SOFT MARKET TESTING**

**THIS IS NOT A CALL FOR COMPETITION**

The soft market test is intended to allow interested organisations with relevant experience to outline their views and provide information with no commitment to themselves or the Council.

The Council is looking to award a contract commencing 1st April 2025. If a decision is made to tender this service, the approximate annual budget is £75,000 (however, this could be increased subject to external funding allocation). It is envisaged that the initial contract would be for a period of 3 years. During the soft market test we would like to gauge the level of interest.

**Stage 1 -** Interested suppliers are required to complete the general information form (see Section 5) and a short questionnaire (see Appendix 1). Suppliers who complete and return the questionnaire ***may*** be invited to meet with Council representatives to discuss its requirements.

The questionnaire should be returned via The Chest - <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/> by **12 noon** on **Friday 19April 2024.**

If Suppliers have any questions about this soft market test, such questions should be submitted to the Council using the ‘Question and Answer’ facility within the opportunity advertised on The Chest. A copy of the question and a copy of the written reply may be circulated to all Suppliers, with anonymity of the Supplier preserved. Suppliers must not raise questions through any other channels, including emails direct to the Council or to STAR Procurement. No questions will be responded to, other than those raised through The Chest as described above.

**We encourage your participation in this soft market testing exercise, but must emphasise that your involvement in this exercise will not carry any commercial advantage in any ensuing procurement process.**

**No information provided in response to this soft market testing exercise will be used in any evaluation of any subsequent response to a procurement exercise.**

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): |  |

1. **UNDERTAKING FROM THE SUPPLIER**

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

Appendix 1

**SUPPLIER QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Please complete the following questionnaire fully, highlighting any information that you consider to be commercially sensitive\***

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| 1. Would you be interested in bidding for this proposed project?   If Yes, why?  If No, why not? |
| Response: |

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| 1. Please detail the experience your organisation has in delivering this type of service? |
| Response: |

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| 1. Please detail how you will meet the requirements as detailed in the key aims of the service, see section 2. |
| Response: |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. When/if the Council go to tender following the soft market test, is there anything in addition to the information in this brief that suppliers would need to be advised of in order to aid in their response. |
| Response: |

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| 1. Please can you provide a brief statement to demonstrate what added value your organisation can offer in the market? |
| Response: |