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| **Supplier Interest Questionnaire for Independent**  **Social Workers providing specialist assessments for Together for Families Cornwall Council.**  **March 2021** |
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| Version: v1.0 |
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| **Contract Title** | Independent Specialist Services |
| **Directorate** | Together for Families |
| **Service Area** | Children and Families |

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| **Introduction** |
| Cornwall Council is looking to engage with independent social workers to undertake specific pieces of work. This supplier interest questionnaire will assess providers ability to meet the requirements to deliver this function for the Council.  Once this questionnaire is completed and submitted by the deadline of 7 June 2021, the Together for Families Commissioning Team will assess the submission. If the Team are satisfied you meet the basic requirements and can evidence this; then you will be invited on Friday 11 June 2021 to complete a quality submission to join Together for Families’ approved list(s).    Those invited to complete a quality submission will be required to return their submission by no later than the 2 July 2021. These will then be evaluated by a panel of expert social workers.  When the individual requirements arise, Together for Families will use the suitable approved list to advertise the opportunities.  This exercise implies no commercial commitment. |
| **Background** |
| Children and Family Services engage with independent workers to undertake specific pieces of work. This includes Section 7 reports, SGO assessments, Form F’s/PAR’s and Step Parent Adoption Assessments, Parenting and  Viability assessments, statutory visits and other (including contact supervision, domestic abuse work, court attendance, life story, psychology assessments). This includes a range of independent workers including, limited companies, associates and individual workers/consultants.  Together for Families wish to provide consistency and fairness in its approach to commissioning independent workers and therefore will be establishing contractual arrangements with all workers providing specialist services.  Children and Family Services provides early help and statutory social care to the most vulnerable children, young people and their families living in Cornwall, with the aim of maximising opportunities for good outcomes for all children and closing the gap in outcomes for the most vulnerable children.  Our mission is to help and protect the most vulnerable children and young people living in Cornwall from harm, to support the educational inclusion of those children and to improve their health outcomes.  The Independent Workers shall provide the services to the best of their ability and making full use of their skill, knowledge, experience and expertise to improve outcomes for children and young people.  The Independent Workers will be required to follow the core principles of Children and Family Services when working with children, young people and their families:   * The welfare of the child or young person is paramount. * Children and young people have a right to live their lives free from neglect and abuse. * Children and young people have the right to be heard (regardless of their age/developmental stage) and the right to influence decisions about their lives and their futures. * Parents and carers have the right to be heard. They retain parental responsibility and that includes the responsibility to make a contribution to the care of their child. * The best environment for a child is within their birth family and their own community of wider family and friends. * All children, especially those with special educational needs, disabilities or in care have a right to a full-time education which is suitably differentiated and takes into account their strengths and needs. * The emotional and psychological health and well-being of children is supported, especially those who live apart from their families or in care. * When a family struggles to meet the needs of a child they will be supported appropriately to do so. * We will offer a wide range of early help and support to prevent those problems escalating to crises. * Statutory social work intervention in the private life of a child and their family is always a last resort. * When a child’s birth family is unable to meet their needs or to keep them safe, their wider network of family and friends will be considered first and, if viable, supported appropriately to care for them. * Where it is not possible to maintain a child within their wider network of family and friends, the Council will endeavour to provide a suitable care placement, in such a way that the child can remain at their school and maintain positive contact with family and friends. * Parents/carers who hold parental responsibility for the child will be expected to make an ongoing contribution to the care of their child, including the cost of care. * When it is not possible for a child to return safely to their family, they will be supported to achieve permanence, preferably within an alternative family. |
| **Information Required** |
| ***General Information***   1. **Organisation Name (IF APPLICABLE):** 2. **Your Name:** 3. **Background information of you or organisation:** 4. **Your or Organisation e-mail contact address:** 5. **Your telephone number:** 6. **Tick all areas of assessments you are qualified to undertake:**  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Section 7 and Section 37 reports** |  | | **SGO Assessments** |  | | **Form F** |  | | **PAR** |  | | **Step Parent Adoption Assessments** |  | | **Viability Assessment** |  | | **Parenting** |  | | **Statutory visit(s)** |  | | **Court attendance** |  | | **Contact supervision** |  | | **Psychology assessment** |  |   ***Contract Specific Questions***   1. **Please provide details of services that you are willing to provide in relation to the requirements detailed attached.** 2. **Please provide details of:**      * **Registration documents** * **Confirmation of DBS less than 3 years old** * **Insurance Certificates** * **Qualifications** * **Attachment Style Interviewing (ASI) accreditation**  1. **Please detail any issues, concerns or risks that might prevent you or your organisation from participating in providing these services through a formal contracting process.** 2. **Please provide details of any elements of the proposed specification which you feel would disproportionately impact your ability to provide a service should this become a formal procurement opportunity.** |

Further information

If you have any questions please contact us through the Due North messaging system.

Please provide your response via Due North by no later than **15 June 2021**