**Intention to Tender Notice – Greater Manchester - Self-employment Pilot (SEP)**

**Overview**

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) have been awarded funding from the Department of Education (DfE) to commission a test and learn pilot to support a minimum of 2,000 Greater Manchester self-employed residents from the eligible cohort listed below.

**Aim**

The main aim of the SEP is to understand which interventions work best to attract and engage those who are already self-employed and identify the most effective support to help them sustain and grow their business. The service will also work with those from the Gig Economy to support them to retrain and move into alternative preferred work.

The service will be externally evaluated and will provide DfE with an evidence base for what works in this area.

**Programme metrics**

The expected value of the contract is £8 million and it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in November 2019 and the service will be operational in February 2020 following an implementation phase and run to March 2022.

**Outcomes**

The service will attribute to the following strategic outcomes:-

* Increase earnings levels of the self-employed and those in the gig economy
* Increase business profits of the self-employed
* Increase the confidence and knowledge of the self-employed and those in the gig economy
* Increase the skills of the self-employed and those in the gig economy
* Reduce the number of pilot participants that cease trading due to business failure

**Eligible Cohort**

GMCA want to ensure that priority access is given to GM residents on low income where self-employment is their primary source of income, or GM residents who are working in the gig economy. All participants will be required to participate in the evaluation of the service to be able to start on the programme and access support.

**Minimum Service Offer**

The minimum service offer will include the following interventions:-

* Regular access to a Keyworker
* A holistic assessment and personalised action plan
* Access to the digital platform supporting the service offer
* Access to peer mentoring
* Access to information, advice and guidance from qualified specialists in the areas of personal finances and careers advice
* Access to **Virtual Vouchers** which can be exchanged for the enhanced of skills and training.

**Payment model**

GMCA anticipates the contract will contribute towards provider costs associated with running the service (e.g. staffing, premises & marketing and communications). Also expects to reimburse eligible virtual voucher costs issued to individuals accessing the service.

**Procurement strategy and timeline**

The Procurement strategy will be an “open tender procedure” compliant with UK and EU legislation.

The tender documents will be available for download via The Chest portal (Ref DN420592) from late July. If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, you will need to register your organisation on The Chest ([www.the-chest.org.uk](http://www.the-chest.org.uk)) for current opportunities at Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

The anticipated timeline is as follows:-

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| Key milestones | Key dates |
| Issue of tender documents via the CHEST | Late July 2019 |
| Return if SAQ/ITT submissions | Early September 2019 |
| Issue of intent to award letters | Late October 2019 |
| Issue final contract | Early November 2019 |
| Commence implementation | Early November 2019 |
| Service commencement | Early February 2020 |