**South London Commissioning Programme. Integrated Commissioning Solution.**

**Soft Market Testing**

The South London Commissioning Programme (SLCP), hosted by The London Borough of Croydon, are trying to identify if there are any providers that would be interested in going into partnership to undertake a needs analysis and then develop an On-line IT solution that would offer a standardised approach to the commissioning for placements for children in care.

• Deadline for responses: 21st September 2018

**Rationale**

In August 2018, the South London Commissioning Board agreed that the programme was working toward an Online Integrated Commissioning Solution. This was based on an understanding that any solution would be developed, designed and recommended through a robust needs analysis.

To achieve this, the Board agreed to try and identify a potential provider that had an evidence based track record of developing an on-line IT systems for children in care and would be willing to work in partnership with the SLCP to deliver on its aim in having;

“Fully aligned, integrated and scalable sub-regional commissioning and quality assurance for looked after children placements, that provide stability for our children and young people, is informed by our data analysis and will achieve efficiency savings as well as create the cultural change and environment necessary to establish an alternative way of working”.

As a programme, we have made clear that any solution will be designed with children and young people at its centre and will improve the current commissioning processes for local authorities and providers.

Based on the previous work undertaken by the SLCP team through “soft market testing”, it is anticipated that none of the existing off the shelf products will meet our anticipated needs and final specification of requirements.

**The requirement**

We are looking for a provider that has a track record of developing on-line IT systems, ideally with an existing platform that could be used as a baseline for development and has a strong knowledge base on the requirements for working with vulnerable children. As part of the partnership, the provider must be able to **develop and implement** the agreed solution at **zero cost** to the SLCP.

The On-line IT solution, would incorporate everything relating to; placement process, quality assurance, contractual compliance and stakeholder engagement and be able to develop into other areas of work

The solution must:

1. Ensure compliance with the relevant legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and Children Act 1984);
2. Fit in as much as possible with our current processes and procedures for making placements for looked after children;
3. Streamline the placement making process and make it less resource intensive for boroughs and providers;
4. Enable innovation through providing an opportunity to involve children and young people in the decision making process and in the subsequent QA (trip advisor);
5. Enable commissioning based on outcomes of children as well as needs;
6. Enable the measurement of residential and fostering outcomes;
7. Enable Boroughs to make emergency placements and provide the relevant MI regarding these placements;
8. Be user friendly and support Boroughs and Providers with an end to end electronic commissioning cycle;
9. Provide Boroughs with a choice of good quality providers that are able to offer a stable placement for looked after children;
10. Enable Boroughs to plan sufficiency of placements;
11. Confidently predict and deliver year on year savings; and
12. Be cost effective

This would be a bespoke system that would be developed over time and have input from children & young people to ensure it meets their requirements.

**Soft Market Testing**

If you are interested in formulating a partnership and have a previous track record of working with this client group, then please provide, on no more than 2 sides of A4, how you can meet the requirements listed above and what would be your expectations of the partnership.