**Market Engagement Exercise**

**Deadline for responses Friday 19 April 2024**

**Please submit completed responses to:** [**SCandMD@nottinghamcity.gov.uk**](mailto:SCandMD@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

**THIS IS NOT A TENDER EXERCISE**

**Intervention service required - supporting women who have experienced multiple children removed from their care, to achieve better outcomes and prevent further removals of children**

The majority of preventative early intervention services work with children and their families. Nottingham City Council are seeking to implement a service which will work specifically with women (not children) in Nottingham who have experienced multiple children removed from their care through an intensive, trauma informed, and relationship based approach. The primary expected outcomes and benefits of this service are to prevent further removals of children from these vulnerable mother’s care and support these women to achieve better life outcomes- engagement in education or employment, improved health outcomes and increased chance of being able to sustain family life.

As an indirect consequence of this intensive direct work with women it is expected there will also be additional benefits for any future children of these mothers by supporting them to be in a position to care for their children without intrusive intervention from the Local Authority i.e. through removal of those children from their care. This supports children to grow up in their family environment and be provided with safe and stable care that meets all of their needs including their identity needs.

**Evidence base for support required for Nottingham women**

A Scoping Exercise which was undertaken in 2023 identified a total of 119 women who were eligible for a support service due to being at increased risk of having multiple children removed from their care.

* Women were aged 21-41 ( 38% of the women currently aged 30 or under, mean age 32)
* They had collectively experienced 385 children removed from their care
* Child to woman ratio was 3.2
* The majority of the women had had 2 children removed (39%)
* 37% of women gave birth to another child within 2 years of a previous birth and a further 46% of women gave birth within 2-5 years
* 16% (19) women were care experienced, in addition 47 women had had social are involvement in their own childhood (together this means 55% of eligible women had varying degrees of social care involvement themselves as a child)
* 82% have experienced domestic abuse, 61% have mental health issues (not necessarily diagnosed), 53% have issues with drugs and 29% have issues with alcohol, 33% have experienced housing issues or homelessness, and 23% have experience of the criminal justice system.

There were 186 women excluded from this total of 119 women during the analysis phase (305 women were initially identified). Women were excluded due to being considered ineligible for support due to one or more of the following reasons:

* They had only had one child removed from their care.
* They had died.
* They were 40+ and hadn’t had a child within the last three years.
* They were no longer living in Nottingham.
* They were currently living with, and caring for, one or more of their children.

The human cost of repeat removals – for both women and children – is high. The scoping report demonstrated that, as well as breaking the destructive cycle of repeat removals, Nottingham City Council could also realise financial benefits by delivering this type of service. It is estimated that delivering this type of support service could avoid total cumulative costs of £5.357m over five years, which begin to accrue from year two of delivery, evidencing that the cost of doing nothing is greater than the cost of investment.

**Scale of intervention service required and expected service start date**

Nottingham City are seeking to implement an intensive support programme working with a cohort of 20-24 women for around an 18 month period. We intend to initially implement a support service for a period of 5 years with different cohorts of women progressing through the service.

We intend for this support service to start actively supporting women from August/ September 2024.

**Anticipated budget per annum allocated to support service**

There is a projected budget availability of £304,000- £330,000 per annum over a 5 year period with the budget increasing through this scale during the service term.

**In house Council delivered or externally commissioned service delivery**

Nottingham City Council (NCC) are exploring possibilities for a support programme to be delivered via the following routes:

* **Nottingham City Council deliver internally**. Potentially with support from a provider to provide guidance, training, and support to the Council.
* **Provider direct service delivery**. Externally commissioned provider directly delivering support programme.

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| **Provider details**  ***All Providers’ responses will be anonymised and will not be shared with competitors for these services*** | |
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| **Market engagement questions (deadline for responses Friday 19 April 2024)** | |
| **Existing Service Model** | |
| **Q1** | **Do you currently operate a support service that works with women who have had multiple children removed from their care, with the primary objectives of: preventing future child removals, improving women’s life outcomes and achieving cost avoidance/ savings for local authorities in relation to children in care costs? Yes/ No**  **If Yes, please give details ( if you run a similar service/ work to similar objectives please give details)**  **If No, would you be interested in delivering this service** |
| **Q2** | **If ‘yes’ to Q1, is your service model:**  **(Please attach a document or link to evidence your service model, experience, and outcomes where possible.)**   * **Directly supporting women or supporting a local authority to support women in house?** * **Evidence/research based? Yes/ No ( if Yes please give details)** * **Independently evaluated? Yes/ No (if Yes please give details)** * **Trauma informed and relationship based? Yes/ No ( if Yes please give details)** * **How many years’ experience does your organisation have providing this service model?** * **What outcomes have been achieved to reduce children entering care, improve women’s life outcomes and achieve cost avoidance/ savings for local authorities in relation to children in care costs?** * **Where in the UK does your service model operate/ supporting which local authority?** |
| **Support service mobilisation August/ September 2024** | |
| **Q3** | **Provider direct service delivery**  **Would your organisation be able to mobilise a support service working face to face with women in Nottingham who have had multiple children removed to achieve primary objectives of preventing future child removals, improving women’s life outcomes, and making cost avoidance/ savings for NCC in relation to children care costs, accepting a cohort of 20-24 women ( per 18 months) from August/ September 2024 onwards for a period of 5 years? Yes/ No ( if Yes please give details)** |
| **Q4** | **Nottingham City Council in house service delivery**  **Would your organisation be able to support NCC with guidance, training and support to mobilise a support service working face to face with women in Nottingham who have had multiple children removed to achieve primary objectives of preventing future child removals, improving women’s life outcomes, and making cost avoidance/ savings for NCC in relation to children care costs, accepting a cohort of 20-24 women ( per 18 months) from August/ September 2024 onwards for a period of 5 years? Yes/ No ( if Yes please give details)** |
| **Budget Envelope** | |
| **Q5** | **Would a budget envelope of £304,000 - £330,000 p/a gradually increasing from year 1 – year 5 viable for your organisation to directly deliver this support service? Yes/ No/ Not Applicable** (**If No what would be a viable budget envelope for your organisation?)** |
| **Q6** | **Would £25,000 p/a be sufficient to provide guidance, training and support to enable NCC to deliver this service in house? Yes/ No/ Not Applicable ( If no what would be sufficient for your organisation)** |
| **Comments** | |
| **Q7** | **Do you have any other comments or suggestions?** |