**.**

**Reference – 5293 - Provision of Short Break Respite Services at Falconwood Centre**

**Details -** The special educational needs (SEN) Code of Practice became effective on 1 September 2014. It gives schools, early education providers, local authorities and those who help them – including health and social services – a duty to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils. Since 1 September 2014, schools and local authorities also have a duty to provide auxiliary aids and services to disabled pupils. The government’s intentions to improve outcomes for disabled children and those with SEN, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, makes it important than ever that health, education and social care professionals work closely with parents, children and young people to improve services.

This legislation states all children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) should be able to reach their full potential in school. They should also be supported to make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training.

Despite substantive spending cuts across all public services, it is evident that the present national government recognises the importance of short breaks. The introduction of the statutory duty to provide a range of short break services is designed to ensure such services are made available to families. It is possible that, while cutting expenditure on traditional short breaks services, local authorities may actually increase expenditure on other types of services e.g. out of borough placements.

To meet the recommendations of this legislation the London Borough of Bexley has a commitment to continue to deliver its short break services for children and young people with complex disabilities at Falconwood Children’s Home (residential short break centre). Short breaks are a term used to refer to a range of services for disabled children, many of which used to be known as respite. The legislation in England requires local authorities to provide family carers’ of disabled children with breaks so that they can continue to care. The Children with Disabilities Service in Bexley recently carried out a comprehensive consultation exercise with parents/carers in Bexley with children and young people with disabilities. The team performed a thematic analysis of data obtained from interviews and surveys. The analysis revealed that short breaks were crucial in helping parents with children with disabilities to continue to provide care and they were used in other ways that addressed the wider consequences of caring. These other uses included reducing social isolation, reducing number of children requiring out of borough placements and enabling caring for non-disabled siblings

**Contract period**

The contract will be for a period of three years 1st September 2022 – 31st August 2025 with the ability to extend for a further period or periods of upto 24 months

## Contract value

The estimated value of the contract is £586,000 per annum.

## Miscellaneous information

Tenders are being invited using the Restricted procedure and a contract notice has been published in the Find a Tender.

Potential providers must be aware that the transfer of undertakings (protection of employment) regulations (TUPE) will apply.

**Health and Safety at Work**

*In meeting the duties placed by the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, and subordinate legislation, the London Borough of Bexley (LBB) has selected the pre qualification schemes that form the Safety Schemes in Procurement Forum (SSIP) as the minimum standards of Health and Safety competence required.*

*Compliance with any one of these standards, details of which are available on the SSIP website, demonstrates an understanding of health and safety law and it’s application in the working environment. As far as LBB is concerned the most common standards used are the Contractors*

*Health And Safety Assessment scheme (CHAS), EXOR Health and Safety and OHSAS 18001 (http://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/ohsas-18001-occupational-health-and-safety/)*

*If applicable - Only companies suitably registered (with regards to Health and Safety) by an SSIP Forum member as ‘Compliant’ (this compliance must also be ‘valid’ ie assessed within the last 2 years) shall be invited to tender, therefore any application your company may need to make to any of these bodies must be completed successfully by the date any tender is issued. The LBB will carry out a final check on registration just prior to tender invitation and companies not suitably registered at that time will not be invited to tender.*

*Contractors are expected to maintain a compliant registration (with regards to Health and Safety) with an SSIP Forum member for the duration of any contract.*

*The SSIP Forum acts as an umbrella organisation to facilitate mutual recognition between health and safety pre-qualification schemes wherever it is practicable to do so.*

## How to express an interest

If you wish to apply for this contract please follow the steps below:

Register your company free of charge on the London Tenders Portal (LTP)

Await acceptance. You will receive an email confirming your username and password for the LTP.

Use your username and password to log into the LTP and express your interest in the relevant contract number and category.

Shortly after you have expressed interest, you will receive a second email containing a link to access the tender documents.

## Additional information

If you wish to apply for e-mail alerts of future opportunities, please register your company free of charge on LTP

Tick all categories you are interested in being notified about - you will only receive e-mail alerts for those categories which you select.

## ANTICIPATED TIMETABLE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity**  | **Date** |
| 1. **Place OJEU Advert**
 | 2nd May 2022 |
| 1. **SQ Advertised**
 | 3rd May 2022 |
| 1. **Deadline for receipt of SQ clarification questions**
 | 20th May 2022 |
| 1. **Deadline to answer SQ clarification questions**
 | 27th May 2022 |
| 1. **SQ Return Date**
 | 6th June 2022 |
| 1. **References returned**
 | 7th June 2022 |
| 1. **SQ Evaluation Date**
 | 15th June 2022 |
| 1. **Issue Tender Documents**
 | 17th June 2022 |
| 1. **Deadline for receipt of clarification questions**
 | 8th July 2022 |
| 1. **Deadline to answer clarification questions**
 | 15th July 2022 |
| 1. **Tender Closing Date -**
 | 22nd July 2022 |
| 1. **ITT Evaluation**
 | 29th July 2022 |
| 1. **Alcatel (stand still) Period**
 | 2nd August – 12th August 2022 |
| 1. **Contract Awards**
 | 15th August 2022 |
| 1. **Contract Start date**
 | **1st September 2022** |

The Council accepts no liability whatsoever for expressions of interest that are not received due to internet connectivity issues, transmission delays or errors.

If you wish to discuss any of the above please contact: procurement@bexley.gov.uk