

1920-0227 The operation, management and facilities management of Soapbox youth space

Islington Council invites suitable expressions of interest from suppliers for the operation, management and facilities management of Soapbox youth space.

Background

There is a significant commitment to 'open for all' (universal) youth work in Islington and a shared understanding of its role in supporting young people to thrive and reducing risk for those who are the most vulnerable. The council currently secures an extensive offer of youth work for young people aged 13 and up. This is delivered borough wide, across the year and includes:

- Two integrated youth service hubs, Lift and Platform. These are borough wide provisions which provide a range of services and opportunities in high quality, aspirational spaces, including a 30 station gym, a commercial kitchen, an 80 seat theatre, 2 dance studios, recording and production spaces, 2 cafes and a roof terrace. A range of services are available to young people including careers guidance, sexual health and counselling.
- Three youth centres, the Zone, Rose Bowl and Soapbox. These centres offer different opportunities depending on their facilities. The Zone is delivered by the council's Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS).
- A range of community based youth work and leisure opportunities delivered at Mary's Youth Club (St Mary's ward), Copenhagen Youth Project (Caledonian ward), Whittington Park Community Association (Junction ward) and Highbury Roundhouse (Highbury East ward).
- Islington also supports a large range of other community provision through particular programmes and some small grants, including Islington Sports Academy, Islington and Finsbury Boxing Club, Access to Sports, Freightliners Farm, All Change Arts Inspire programme for young parents and pregnant young women and Prosplex.
- A comprehensive summer offer of engaging and exciting opportunities for those aged 13 and up ('Summerversity') and those aged 16 and up ('Launchpad'), which are delivered over the school summer holiday period.

The requirement

The council is seeking suitable expressions of interest from providers who can:

- secure relational-based youth work opportunities which are innovative, exciting and engaging for young people and which support their social and emotional development
- manage the Soapbox space to the highest standards
- develop and operate an appropriate and ambitious business plan which will generate additional revenue which will be re-invested in full back into the offer for young people.

The provider will be expected to use available tools and methodologies to understand, track and record service user progress. The provider will understand the role of youth spaces within a community and will demonstrate their ability to ensure that Soapbox is acknowledged by young people and other stakeholders as the key youth space in the area.

TUPE [Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations]

Potential providers must be aware that TUPE may or may not apply to this service. Further details will be available in the invitation to tender.

Contract Period

The contract period will be for 36 months from an estimated start date 1 April 2020 with four (4) options to extend of 36 months each, up to a maximum extension of 144 months. The total contract period will be up to 180 months.

Contract Value

The estimated total value of this contract is £2,550,000 over the maximum 180 months' term of the contract. This is based on £170,000 per annum.

The budget for this service of £170,000 per annum, excluding any income generation opportunities identified by the organisation/s bidding for this contract.

Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations. MEAT for this contract is quality 70% and cost 30%. Further details will be provided in the invitation to tender.

Cost 30%

1. Financial forecast in line with the length of the service contract	30%
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Quality 70%

2. Proposed approach to contract mobilisation including: marketing, promotion and communication; TUPE, staff recruitment and training; community engagement; working with the council, including commissioners and other key professionals; business continuity planning and consistency in service delivery for young people	10%
3. Proposed approach to partnerships including: developing the reputation of Soapbox as a borough-wide, broad and locally connected offer for young people that meets the needs of local young people and the most vulnerable; the approach to integrated working with open for all organisations (play and youth) as well as professionals in targeted and specialist children's services	10%
4. Proposed approach to delivery of outcomes for young people including: delivery and evidence of outcomes and outputs as	10%

described in the service specification; approach to delivering a co-produced youth work programme; tools and methodologies for measuring the outputs and outcomes achieved; effective delivery of earliest help through high quality youth work relationships	
5. Proposed business plan including: income generation and reinvestment in Soapbox services; young people's involvement; fundraising in partnership with the council for both revenue and capital initiatives; creation of spaces for complementary services	10%
6. Proposed approach to delivering social value, including employment opportunities for young people, and apprenticeships; engagement with the council's commitment to 100 hours of experience of the world of work, and ' 11 By 11 ' initiative for all Islington young people; leadership opportunities within the organisation	10%
7. Proposed approach to safeguarding, early intervention and earliest help including: policies and procedures; staff training and development; holistic approaches to working with young people in need of additional support; safeguarding issues specifically focussed on supporting young volunteers and employees	10%
8. Proposed approach to facilities management	10%

Total 100%

Tenderers should be aware that the council reserves the right to hold site visits, request presentations and/or interviews during the tender process. Site visits, presentations and/or interviews will be for verification/clarification purposes of the written submission.

The council reserves the right to interview leading bidders.

Procurement Process

This procurement will be conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, under Chapter 3 Section 7 Social and Other Specific Services (known as the light-touch regime). Under Regulation 76 the council is free to establish a procedure, provided that the procedure is sufficient to ensure compliance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment of economic operators (service providers). The procedure will be based on a one stage tender, allowing for negotiation if deemed appropriate. As per the open procedure, any interested economic operator (service provider) may submit a tender in response to the advertisement.

The Council will reserve the right to award the contract on the basis of initial tenders without negotiation where this offers value for money. The council reserves the right to not award the contract if the received tenders do not offer value for money.

How to express an interest

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

Register your organisation free of charge via the **London Tenders Portal**.

Link: <https://procontract.due-north.com>

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

Use your username and password to log into the London Tenders Portal and express your interest in **1920-0227 – The operation, management and facilities management of Soapbox youth space - 85000000-9 - Health and social work services.**

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

Deadlines

The deadline for expressions of interest is: **11.59am Friday 13 December 2019**

Submission of Tender documents by: **12 noon Friday 13 December 2019**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Additional information

- Islington Council and its partners are committed to work towards a 'Fairer Islington', for more information see www.islington.gov.uk.
- Please **do not** include any publicity material with your submissions.
- Islington Council aims to provide equality of opportunity and welcomes applicants who meet the qualitative selection criteria from black and minority ethnic communities and disabled groups.
- The Council encourages all types of organisation who meet the qualitative selection criteria including Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, Social Enterprises or not for profit enterprises and small to medium enterprises (SME) to tender.
- Your submission will be marked in stages. Only applicants who meet the requirements at each stage will progress to the next stage. Further details will be contained in the tender documents.
- Please include the Contract Number of this tender process when communicating with the Council in any way.
- All questions relating to this contract should be raised via the question and answer section of the relevant contract on the London Tenders Portal. Please do not contact any officer of the council directly.
- Applicants are advised that all costs incurred either directly or indirectly in preparation, submission or otherwise related to this advertisement will be borne by them, and in no circumstances will the council be responsible for any such costs. Applicants are also advised that the council at its sole discretion acting reasonably and in good faith reserves the right to abandon the procurement at any stage prior to contract award.
- As part of a commitment to transparency the council is now publishing all spend over £500 each month. This includes spend on contracts, so the successful contractor should expect details of spend against the contract to appear on the council website [Islington Council: Council contracts](#). The council is also committed to publishing tender and contract documentation after contract award stage. Commercially sensitive information will be redacted from documentation. What constitutes commercially sensitive information is a matter for the council's sole discretion. However, tenderers will be

invited to identify information they consider to be commercially sensitive in their tender return and this will be taken into account in the council forming a view.