

**Oxfordshire County Council**

**Joint Commissioning Team**

**Invitation to Tender**

**Domestic Abuse Services CPU 1785**

Oxfordshire County Council’s Joint Commissioning Team is advertising an opportunity to provide support to people at risk of or experiencing domestic abuse based in the following services:

* **Part A - Access Service** which will include a single point of access for victims, friends and family and professionals seeking advice and support, a pathway coordination function and limited ongoing support to meet the needs of victims from Oxfordshire assessed as being ‘standard risk’.
* **Part B - Community based support service** which will include Outreach and IDVA floating support available to people who are 16+ living in Oxfordshire who have been assessed as ‘medium’ or ‘high’ risk and a complex needs service. The service will also provide support for the places of safety dispersed accommodation and provide resettlement support to people leaving accommodation based services.
* **Part C - Accommodation based support service** will include refuge and places of safety dispersed accommodation for victims who are at risk of or experiencing domestic abuse enabling them to escape victimisation, prevent homelessness and to be supported to achieve independence.

**Part A - Access Service**

The single point of access will provide confidential telephone and IT based support to 1000+ individuals per year. The service will also provide support to 500 individuals assessed as ‘standard risk’ annually. The Pathway Coordination function will include working with the victim to assess needs and risks, managing referrals and waiting lists for services and practical support to assist access to accommodation based services.

**Part B – Community based support service**

The Community Outreach service will provide support for 150 victims assessed as ‘medium risk’ per year. The IDVA service will provide support to 60 individuals assessed as ‘high risk’ annually.

The Service Provider will be expected to provide a complex needs service for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire victims. The Council would expect a virtual team to operate across the two counties. The staff will be specially trained to work with victims with complex needs and will receive support with case management from a mental health/complex needs clinical expert as part of the contract. The service will support 30 Service Users from Oxfordshire and 15 Service users from Buckinghamshire with complex needs per year. It will involve 1:1 and group work run in both counties.

The Community based support service will provide outreach support to the victims living in the places of safety dispersed units. These will be people of all genders who are single, couples and people with children from Oxfordshire who are experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse. The model will be based in the community.

**Part C – Accommodation based support services**

Refuge

The successful Service Provider will be responsible for sourcing refuge accommodation. These accommodation sites should be based in two or more districts across Oxfordshire. Geographical location of the refuge should take into account the needs of the women and their children for transport and access to childcare, schools and other necessary facilities including religious and cultural facilities.

Places of safety dispersed

These properties will be supplied by the five district councils in Oxfordshire, ideally with one in each district, although this may be flexible.

The successful Service Provider will be expected to work with local housing authority partners to develop this model and build up a portfolio of dispersed accommodation.

Buildings

The configuration of units can be flexible in terms of refuge and places of safety buildings to a target of 21 beds in negotiation with the local housing authority partners. However, the Service Provider is responsible for sourcing a minimum of 16 beds which need to be in place and operational in Oxfordshire at the start of the contract and throughout its duration.

Details of a Registered Provider of the current refuge accommodation can be found in the **Contact Information** attachment to the invitation to tender with a view to enabling prospective bidders to explore accommodation options that may form part of their bid. There is scope for using current refuge accommodation.

**Contract**

The contract will be for three years with an option to extend for a further two years. The indicative contract start date is 1 April 2018.

There are currently 9 FTE of staff (plus management) providing the current services and therefore TUPE may apply.

The Council welcomes applications from organisations who have a proven track record in providing similar services in a similar environment and/or Providers who already hold contracts for similar services with Oxfordshire County Council.

**Budget**

The overall indicative budget for these services is £600,000 per year[[1]](#footnote-1).

The indicative cost for each service area included in the specification is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Access Service | Community Based Support Service | Accommodation Based Support Service |
| £100,000 | £350,000[[2]](#footnote-2) | £150,000 |
| A1 Single point of access | B1 Outreach floating support, medium risk | C1 Refuge accommodation |
| A2 Pathway Co-ordination function | B2 IDVA floating support, high risk | C2 Dispersed accommodation |
| A3 Short term support, standard risk | B3 Complex needs service |  |
|  | B4 Resettlement |  |

Information relating to buildings and accommodation can be provided on return to the Council of a completed Confidentiality Agreement.

TUPE information can be provided on return to the Council of a completed Confidentiality Agreement.

A single completed Confidentiality Agreement will cover both of the above aspects and can be returned to Mark Jermy at mark.jermy@oxfordshire.gov.uk or via the portal.

Bids must be submitted to the Council before **12 noon on** **Wednesday 4 October 2017** via the Council’s electronic tendering portal at <https://sebp.due-north.com/>

**Any other queries can be submitted to:**

Sarah Carter

Strategic Lead Domestic Abuse

Commissioning

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Mark Jermy

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1. This will reduce to £535,000 in year 3 of the contract due to a reduction in funding for BAMER specialist posts.

The indicative budget may be scaled down if one or more funding sources are withdrawn. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The indicative budget for the Community Based Support Service will reduce from £350,000 to £285,000 in year 3 of the contract. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)