

1617-0753 Schools Outreach Service for Autism, Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties

Islington Council invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified organisations with relevant experience to increase the ability of all Islington schools to identify and meet the needs of children with Autism, Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties.

Current status / Background

Islington Council is currently reviewing the range of SEND services it offers, and will be exploring alternative models of service delivery. A review is needed as:

1. The diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASC) is increasing both nationally and locally
2. The Children and Families Act 2014 requires education settings to meet the specific needs for a range of children, so that 'All teachers are teachers of children with SEND'. This is increasingly including children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASC)
3. A reduction in the schools block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is placing more pressure on school budgets
4. Pressure on the High Needs budget is increasing
5. Data suggests that compared to other Local Authorities:
 - more pupils in Islington are placed in specialist settings
 - Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) provision may be over-represented
 - fewer pupils with ASC and SEMH are educated in mainstream settings
 - outcomes for young people with SEND show Islington is below the national average attainment at KS2, but above at KS4
 - Islington has higher levels of exclusions from mainstream schools
 - there has been a rise in the number of children and young people with an EHCP / statement in Islington over the last five years, equating to an average of 32 additional statements / statutory plans each year; this is more than would be accounted for by a rise in the general child population

The review is likely to result in a greater integration between the different SEND services offered to schools. It is anticipated that these changes would start to be implemented from September 2018.

The requirement

We are seeking bidders with a proven track record of delivering outreach services to mainstream educational settings for children with Autism, Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties.

Bidders should be able to demonstrate their experience, skills and knowledge and approach in the following areas:

1. Increasing the ability of school staff to identify and meet the needs of children with Severe and Profound Autism within their setting
2. Improving the efficient use of school resources
3. Improving integration and joint working between schools and their key partners
4. Improving progress towards goals for children with Autism, Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties.

Lots

This contract will not be split into Lots because the service is required to have a clear overview of all training and development work in schools regarding Severe and Profound Autism, and breaking it up into different functions could undermine this. Schools have also expressed a preference to simplify and reduce the number of different organisations.

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

Potential providers must be aware that TUPE may apply to this service. Further details will be available in the invitation to tender.

Contract Period

The contract period will be for 12 months from an estimated start date 01/04/2018 with the option for three extensions of 12 months each, subject to satisfactory performance and further funding being secured.

Contract Value

The estimated total value of this contract is £978,000 over the maximum 48 months term of the contract. This is based on £244,500 per annum.

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 80% and cost 20%. Further details will be provided in the invitation to tender.

Cost 20%

Quality 80%

Quality made up of:

- Proposed approach to service outcomes - 40%
- Proposed approach to organisation and service delivery – 40%

Total 100%

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

We reserve the right to interview leading bidders.

Procurement Process

This contract will be procured using the Open Procedure. The Open Procedure means that all bidders who successfully express an interest will automatically be invited to tender and have access to the tender documents. Those who submit a tender and meet the minimum requirements will have their full tender, method statements and pricing evaluated.

How to express an interest

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

Register your company free of charge via the link on the right hand side of this page under: 'Related Websites' **London Tenders Portal**.

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

Link: https://www.londontenders.org/procontract/supplier.nsf/frm_home?openForm

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 1617-0753 Schools Outreach Service for Autism, Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties - CPV 80511000 Staff training services.

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

Deadlines

The deadline for expressions of interest is: **12 noon 12/02/2018**.

Submission of Tender documents by: **12 noon 12/02/2018**.

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 www.islington.gov.uk. 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.