

## 1920-0001 Islington Breastfeeding Peer Support Service

Islington Council invites suitable expressions of interest from suppliers for Islington's Breastfeeding Peer Support Service.

### Current status / Background

Giving children the best start in life is a Health and Wellbeing Board strategic priority. The physical, emotional and social benefits of breastfeeding, for baby and mother, are well evidenced<sup>1</sup>, with potential for life-long benefits throughout the health and social care system, and the opportunity to diminish some health inequalities that originate from the perinatal period.

UNICEF's 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding highlight the importance of providing antenatal advice on the benefits and management of breastfeeding, actively helping women to initiate breastfeeding quickly after birth, and fostering seamless continuation of assistance for breastfeeding through community support groups<sup>2</sup>. Both UNICEF and NICE highlight the importance of working within a culture of partnership and clear communication across the perinatal care pathway, in order to enable flexible, efficient and responsive care.

An Islington Breastfeeding Peer Support service has been operating in line with these principles for a number of years. The current provision balances a universal and targeted service, with a seven day a week presence in University College London Hospital (UCLH) and Whittington hospitals and a range of locally available, alternative access points for one-to-one and group breastfeeding support according to need. Breastfeeding Peer Support is well established as a concept and a service offer to mothers in Islington, and the extended re-commissioning of this service is described within the updated specification. We expect that the stability of provision offered through this contract will enable further integration of the service within a multi-agency health system, longer term social value, and greater sustainability for volunteer/ peer supporter recruitment, training and employment, to the benefit of service users.

### The Requirement

The Islington Breastfeeding Peer Support Service will aim to increase the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding at six to eight weeks and beyond, and reduce inequalities in breastfeeding initiation and continuation. It will do this by offering dedicated one-to-one and group-based breastfeeding support to mothers within 48 hours of home birth or transfer home from a birthing centre (and within 72 hours of birth if missed on the ward), and additionally according to need. The service will be delivered by a network of trained peer volunteers and accredited peer supporters recruited from the local community, working within a multi-agency, integrated system of perinatal and infant health services. The breastfeeding peer support team will also play an important role in raising awareness of Islington Bright Start and wider perinatal services.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index\\_24824.html](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_24824.html) [accessed 18.3.19]

<sup>2</sup> *Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Breastfeeding: The Special Role of Maternity Services*, a joint WHO/UNICEF statement published by the World Health Organization.

## Lots

This contract is not being divided into lots as there is a need for a consistent service.

## 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 options to extend up to a further 24 months on two consecutive occasions (36+24+24 months in total).

## Contract Value

The estimated total value of this contract is £1,065,533 over the maximum 84 months' term of the contract. This is based on £152,219 per annum.

**There is a maximum fixed budget for this service of £1,065,533. Any bids over this amount will be disqualified.**

## 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%. Tender submissions will be subject to minimum quality thresholds as outlined in the Method Statement Questions. Further details will be provided in the invitation to tender.

### Cost 20%

#### Quality 80%, made up of:

Proposed approach to service provision 25%

Proposed approach to tackling inequalities 15%

Proposed approach to capacity and resource management 15%

Proposed approach to continuing professional development 10%

Proposed approach to quality assurance, governance and safeguarding 10%

Proposed approach to social value 5%

### 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 **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 1920-0001 Islington Breastfeeding Peer Support Service – 85000000 Health and social work 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: **14 October 2019, 11.59am**

Submission of Tender documents by: **14 October 2019, 12 noon.**

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](http://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.

