

2223-0314 North Central London Support-after-Suicide Service

On behalf of the Departments of Public Health of the five boroughs of the North Central London (NCL) integrated care partnership (Camden, Islington, Haringey, Barnet and Enfield), Islington Council invites suitable expressions of interest from suppliers for a service to provide emotional and practical support for those bereaved or otherwise impacted by a death by suicide.

The service will be provided across all five NCL boroughs.

Current status / Background

Each death by suicide has profound, wide-ranging, intergenerational, economic and emotional consequences for those directly bereaved, for those impacted and for a society as a whole. A dedicated support service to provide support after suicide has been in place in NCL since October 2020, in line with the national suicide prevention transformation programme which has recognised this area as a priority. Identifying those affected by suicide has been supported by the development of the Thrive London Real Time Surveillance System (RTSS) for suspected suicides.

The requirement

The aim of the service is to support those bereaved by suicide to face the immediate, acute, disorientating and painful experience of the first weeks and months after a suicide. The service also aims to support those otherwise affected by suicide including those bereaved in the past, and impacted individuals, groups or communities, in partnership with local agencies and community groups.

The service will be available to anyone affected by a suicide who lives, works or volunteers in the boroughs, and to anyone affected by a suicide that occurs within the five boroughs, regardless of the potential service user's location.

We expect the service to offer individual support, group-based and community-based support. At a minimum, we require a service to provide:

- Pro-active contact and offer of support to those referred and who self-refer
- Provision of verbal and written information
- An assessment of need from a qualified person
- One-to-one emotional support with flexible contact options
- Support with the practical tasks and impacts of bereavement by suicide, such as dealing with the police, funeral arrangements or visiting the place of death as well as accessing legal advice or financial support
- Advocacy and liaison support, such as offering to accompany clients at inquests, dealing with the media, advocating for clients by speaking to professionals or statutory agencies on their behalf
- Signposting and/or referral on to other support services, such as housing, employment support, mental health services, GPs, or other bereavement or peer support, where appropriate

Full details of the service requirements are available in the service specification.

Lots

The contract is not split into lots. The service needs to be skilled and holistic. There is a balance between the requirement for local liaison and the need for expertise, and operational sustainability that would not be possible within a very small service. The move to more flexible service delivery options since Covid (whilst maintaining face-to-face options) has suited clients of the service and made this model effective across the geography of the five boroughs.

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 24 months from an estimated start date of 1 October 2023 with three further options to extend for up to 12 months each (maximum 60 months).

Contract Value

The estimated total value of this contract is £825,000 over the maximum 60-month term of the contract. This is based on £165,000 per annum. However, the Council on behalf of the NCL boroughs is confident the bids received will be lower than the estimated value.

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 90% and cost 10%. Further details will be provided in the invitation to tender.

Quality 90%

Cost 10%

Quality made up of:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Proposed approach to service provision | 30% |
| Proposed approach to service access | 15% |
| Proposed approach to social value | 15% |
| Proposed mobilisation and implementation plan | 10% |
| Proposed approach to ensuring the close involvement of people with lived experience of suicide bereavement | 10% |
| Proposed approach to quality assurance and improvement | 10% |

Total 100%

Procurement Process

This procurement is being conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The procurement is subject to the light-touch regime under Section 7 Social and Other Specific Services. Under Regulation 76 the Council is free to establish a procedure, provided that procedure is sufficient to ensure compliance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment of economic operators (service providers).

This procedure is based on the open procedure. All economic operators (service providers) 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](#).

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 2223-0314 North Central London Support-after-Suicide Service, category 85312300 : Guidance and counselling 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: **11.50 am, Friday 5 May 2023**

Submission of Tender documents by: **12 noon, Friday 5 May 2023**

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 organisations 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.