# Soft Market Test

For

Flexible Funding for Victims of Domestic Abuse

Cambridgeshire County Council

Ref: [XXX]

# Section 1: Introduction

## General Requirements

* 1. The purpose of this document is to briefly explain to suppliers the business and technical requirements and the expected scope of provision of flexible funding for victims of domestic abuse in order that suppliers can explain the relevance of products, services and their experience to the requirements.
  2. **Please note:** this market testing exercise is **not** an invitation to tender or a request for formal expressions of interest. This document does not form any part of an invitation to tender. CCC is issuing this request for **information only**. Any supplier invited to present to CCC is doing so to support market research only and to help make any potential procurement process more focused and efficient. No supplier selection or supplier preference is implied.

## Confidentiality and Freedom of Information (FOI)

* 1. **Please note:** all information included in this Soft Market Testing is confidential and only for the recipients’ knowledge. No information included in this document or in discussions connected to it may be disclosed to any other party without prior written authorisation.
  2. All responses will be treated confidentially. However, please be aware that we are subject to the disclosure requirements of the FOI Act and that potentially any information we hold is liable to disclosure under that Act. For this reason, we strongly advise that any information you consider to be confidential is labelled as such. In the event that a request is subsequently made for disclosure under FOI the request will be dealt with in accordance with the legislation.

## Background

Cambridgeshire County Council have responsibility for safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse, as part of the statutory duty on local authorities defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Part of the strategy to meet this duty includes the provision of ‘flexible funding’ to meet the needs of victims of domestic abuse who need to flee, or need support to stay safe in their own homes.

The council host the in-house IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser) Service and also commission other services to work with victims and survivors. These services will apply for flexible funding on behalf of their clients.

## Soft Market Test Timetable

* 1. Please read this document and if you feel that your organisation is able to contribute to this exercise please complete the questionnaire at the end of this document and return, via email to Julia.cullum@cambridgeshire.gov.uk by 31 July 2024.
  2. Following receipt of the questionnaires, a decision will then be made internally on the best procurement approach. The timetable is provided below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Date** |
| Deadline for receipt of responses to Soft Market Test. | 31/07/24 |
| Decision on way forward. | 02/08/24 |

* 1. Potential responders will not be prejudiced in any future procurement processes by either responding or not responding to this soft market test exercise.

# Section 2: Identification of Requirement

## Current Situation

5.1 Flexible funding for victims of domestic abuse is part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safe Accommodation for Victims of Domestic Abuse Strategy.

The funding is flexible to meet the needs of victims, but its main aim is to keep clients safe and ensure they can live free from domestic abuse. Currently commissioned services have a small pot of funding they can use for this purpose. The in house IDVA Service also have funding they can use for this purpose and make payments to suppliers via invoice or make purchases via company credit cards. This is not always the most flexible approach and is time consuming for staff. We are seeking a solution that enables products to be purchased and delivered to clients directly, with the flexibility to provide cash/vouchers as an alternative.

Examples of products that could be purchased for clients are as follows. This list is not exhaustive.:

* White goods
* Furniture
* Security items such as video doorbells, cameras and DASH - CAMS
* Household items
* Taxi or public transport fares
* Supermarket or other gift vouchers
* Utility bill payment/credit
* Flexibility to provide cash directly

## Our Requirements

6.1 Funding for clients needs to be provided in a timely way. In some circumstances there is a need to provide assistance to clients very quickly – this could be supermarket vouchers, cash, etc within 24 hours. For other items this would need to be within 5-7 working days.

* 1. We are looking for a solution that will:
* Include a simple referral mechanism
* Prompt response and provision of goods/services as described above
* Range of products and services with flexibility to provide cash directly to clients, in a secure way
* Provide clear data on services/goods provided

# Section 3: Supporting information

Please note: you do not need to resize the table; it will automatically adjust to fit your response.

## Section A: Organisation and Contact Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** |
| Name of your organisation |  |
| Registered office (if applicable) |  |
| Trading address (if different from office) |  |
| What if any local connections do you have with the authority? |  |
| Name of person whom any queries relating to this questionnaire should be addressed |  |
| Telephone Number(s) |  |
| Email |  |
| Address if different to above |  |

## Section B: Questions

Please note: you do not need to resize the table; it will automatically adjust to fit your response.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** |
| What is the solution you propose? |  |
| How will your proposal meet the need described? |  |
| How long would your proposal take to implement? |  |
| If your proposal is already in use elsewhere: please give an example of your proposed solution in use and state how it has met the requirements of the customer. |  |