

**Employment and Wellbeing support for Young People**

Young people’s employment prospects have been disproportionally impacted by Covid-19 and the measures to manage it. Between February - August 2021, we worked with the Design Council and The Winch to engage young people and system stakeholders in a series of working sessions and workshops which aimed to design a new approach to employment support for young people. This work was instigated in response to evidence of the impact of the early phases of the pandemic on young people’s employment prospects.

The co-design process delivered some rich insights into the issues and failures in the system which make it more difficult for young people access good careers advice and good work. The desk research and insight from stakeholders highlighted a significant increase in poor mental health, an insufficient focus on vocational options and pathways, limitations in the quality and focus of skills and employment support services and the need to develop a clearer ask of employers. Young people talked about there being insufficient support for making important career decisions whilst still at school as well as when they leave.

Young people also talked about demotivating recruitment processes, a lack of good quality work experience and the importance of developing trusted relationships. Many young people were interested in enterprise – self employment as a way to avoid being caught up in a difficult labour market and as a way to supplement incomes.

The follow extracts from the co-design report provide further illustration of key support needs identified by young people. In developing the Circle Collective provision, the council intends to respond to identified needs, particularly:

* Lack of appropriate work experience
* Young people getting lost in transition between education, training and work
* Whole person support through the process of seeking employment
* Young people learning about their strengths, and building a portfolio of skills and experiences across jobs
* Entrepreneurial and spotting new opportunities to earn and grow

This Prior Information Notice is seeking responses from interested organisations who can improve the employability prospects for young people in Camden, particularly those furthest from the labour market and in-need of work readiness support. Any interested organisations will need to offer a high level of support which includes both one to one and group workshops that offer employment, in work and enterprise support in additional to wellbeing support.

The project will be overseen and supported by Camden’s Inclusive Economy service. The Inclusive Economy service works to build a truly inclusive economy, by taking a human-centred, collaborative approach to developing innovative solutions that help all residents and businesses thrive. We do this through three key work areas of work – help to work, help to grow, help to learn.

The delivery partner will need to offer complementary support to young people, such as:

* Voluntary work experience in a retail setting
* Physical activity such as boxing
* Wellbeing and mindfulness activity
* Information and guidance on nutrition
* Creative activities
* Corporate insight sessions

Access to work experience in a retail setting is a requirement of the contract, it is beneficial if the provider has a social enterprise which operates within a retail setting.

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| **Milestone** | **Indicative date** |
| Light-touch tender publication date | February 2023 |
| Assessments | February 2023 |
| Award date | March 2023 |
| Commencement date | April 2023 |

**Questions – please submit your responses via the ProContract messaging system:**

1) The Council are looking to commission the service for a period of 12 months. Please make your observations.

2) Can you briefly outline the resident journey and complementary support?

3) We are looking at tendering using scoring weighting of Price (80): Quality (20). Please make any observations and comments.

4) Can you briefly outline the partners you would seek to collaborate with to support participants?

5) Can you detail the pricing structure to be included in your proposal?