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| **Soft Market Test** |
| Pro-social learning activities for children diagnosed with Asperger’s, and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)  |
| May 2021 |
| Disabled Children and Therapy Services  |

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| Contract Title  | Pro-Social Learning Activities for Children Diagnosed with Asperger’s / Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) |
| Directorate | **Together for Families**  |
| Service Area  | Disabled Children and Therapy Service |

**Introduction**

Cornwall Council is conducting a soft market assessment to gain an understanding of the potential level of interest for the provision of the service contract referred to above.

It is intended that the responses supplied will enable us to develop a business proposal. Any such proposal would be subject to the development and approval of a business case and, as such, this exercise implies no commercial commitment. This is not a formal tender document.

Participation in this soft market assessment will not prejudice suppliers participating in any future procurement.

If you are interested in the areas of service provision and also helping with our assessment of the market, please complete the “Information Required” section at the end of this notice along with any additional information you consider to be relevant and return this via Due North

This is the main section setting out full details of the policy and the arrangements that need to be put in place. Use sub headings appropriate to the detail of the policy.

Background

Cornwall Council requires short break services for disabled children and young people diagnosed with Asperger’s / Autistic Spectrum Disorder to meet statutory duties, national guidance, local strategic priorities and best practice.

The Council is looking for a provider/s who will work with them to deliver quality services that meet the requirements below. The provider would need to provide experience of offering the services as outlined or similar services that demonstrate flexibility and that they can be responsive and give disabled children choice and control over how their eligible needs are met.

The overarching aims of the Disabled Children and Therapy Service are to promote and safeguard the welfare of disabled children and young people, and to work in co-production to design and deliver comprehensive quality services for disabled children and young people in Cornwall.

The Contract value for the provision of pro-social learning activities for children diagnosed with Asperger’s/Autistic Spectrum Disorder is £143,000 per annum.

Current Provision

The provision of pro-social learning activities for children diagnosed with Asperger’s/Autistic Spectrum Disorder current contract requires the provision of:

• A short break service in the form of weekly sessions for children and young people who attend mainstream school with a diagnosis of Asperger’s / Autistic Spectrum Disorder ages 8-18.

• Sessions which focus on the development of social skills and to support individuals to independently attend mainstream activities / clubs that they have an interest in.

• Fun and positive short break opportunities where children and young people feel safe, are encouraged and supported to develop new friendships

Structured weekly sessions where a range of social and communication skills programmes are delivered that will support the development of:

• Improved social and communication skills

• Build confidence and self-esteem

• Encourage friendships and peer relationships

• Promote social inclusion and access to mainstream opportunities

• Develop self-managing strategies to support social and communication development.

• A County wide service that is accessible to those that are eligible to use the service.

• A range of social opportunities within the school holidays where the children and young people can transfer their learning and take part in fun activities together.

• A structured programme offering skills development in social and communication, self-esteem and confidence building.

The length of time that children and young people are involved in the programme is dependent on their individual level of need but should not exceed 12 months.

The service will run weekly sessions during term time and offer activity opportunities during the school holidays where children and young people can practice and transfer the skills they are learning.

Group sizes may vary depending on the need of the children and young people that attend the sessions but, consideration must also be given to the social aspect of the sessions and the numbers of individuals wishing to access the sessions.

The suggested three age groups are:

• 8-11

• 12-15

• 15-18

Information Required

Interested organisations who consider that they would be able to meet the current outlined requirements (delivery of services to the approximate values identified above) are invited to submit their details along with any additional information/experience which may be relevant and of interest to the Council. Where organisations are interested in more than one Lot please complete the questions below for each relevant section.

Your Name and position in organisation:

Organisation Name:

Background information of your organisation:

Organisation e-mail contact address:

Your telephone number:

Section 1: Pro-social Learning Activities for Children Diagnosed with Asperger’s / ASD.

1a) Please provide details of potential services that you could provide in relation to the requirements of the Groups for Disabled Children and Young People service detailed above.

1b) Please outline how your approach will be flexible, creative and innovative. Please include reference to how you have demonstrated this and adapted services to provide activities and support during the COVID-19pandemic.

1c) Give an detailed overview of how you would ensure that a high-quality service that delivers to individual and collective needs to give safe care.

1d) From an initial assessment, if this became a formal procurement opportunity, would your organisation seek a partnership approach?

1e) If so, why would this be needed, what type of partners would you envisage and what additional value would they bring to the proposition?

1f) Please provide details of similar contracts / experience that you have delivered.

1g) Please detail any issues concerns or risks that might prevent your organisation from participating in a future tender exercise to provide these services.

1h) Additional information you consider to be relevant.

Further information

If you have any questions please contact Michelle Collins, Cornwall Council by email: Michelle.collins@cornwall.gov.uk.

Please provide your response via **Due North** no later than 17.00 hrs on 24th May 2021 to michelle.collins@cornwall.gov.uk.

**Alternative Format**

If you would like this information in another format or language, please contact:

**Cornwall Council
County Hall
Treyew Road
Truro TR1 3AY**

Telephone: **0300 1234 100**

Email: **enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk**

**www.cornwall.gov.uk**