

Barnet Floating Support Procurement - Overview

Background

Barnet's Supporting People partnership has reviewed its floating support services, how they are currently utilised and the outcomes being achieved and has considered with stakeholders including customers how the support needs of customers can best be met into the future.

As a result of this review we have recognised the need to commission two separate floating support service models that can respond to the different needs and levels of input required by Supporting People customer groups.

We are therefore inviting providers to submit tenders for two types of service.

- A) a generic service for people who seek assistance either directly through the support service or indirectly through other stakeholders and
- B) a generic service on the "assertive outreach" model for people who may be less able to recognise their needs for support and/or who are less likely to participate in support

Both models are intended to operate across all Supporting People primary need groups

Indicative Proposals for Contract Packaging and Terms

The following summarises, for the convenience of bidders, the basis on which we require tenders to be submitted. More detail of each of the following is available within the procurement pack.

Tender prices

Contracts, and therefore tenders, for each floating support service will be based on the price per hour of support actually delivered net of annual leave, other staff absences. Anticipated hours per Service are in the table below.

Contract payments

Payments will be made four weeks in advance based on 1/13th of the annual contract price. Where less than 100% of the hours on which the contract is based are actually delivered, the contract payment will be reduced accordingly. This will be by way of a payment adjustment following quarterly returns or where an audit carried out by the commissioner/contract manager finds that contracted deliverable hours have not been complied with.

Tender size

Each of service types A) and B) can be bid for in smaller lots (see the table below for number and size of available lots). No bids should define the lot/s for which they are bidding by geographic area in Barnet; we consider that

Barnet's customers should receive equal access to and choice of services wherever they are living within the Borough.

Any bidder may tender for one lot or a combination of lots for either of the services.

Service Type	Total Weekly Net Hours (i.e. deliverable hours)	Proposed No of Contract Lots	Contract Lot Size
A) Generic Open-Access	1250 hours	3	c400 hours
B) Generic - Outreach	600 hours	2	c300 hours

Scope of potential services

Each bid should be able to meet the specification for the service tendered for in whole; we do not seek further specialist services nor will we consider bids for services that do not in themselves meet the overall objectives outlined in section 4.

Bids from the same provider

Separate tenders for Services A) and B) should be submitted; we cannot accept a tender for one service type which is dependant on the other also being accepted. Bidders may, however, propose how value for money could be achieved were both tenders to be accepted.

Consortium or partnership bids

We welcome bids from consortium or partnership arrangements provided that these are clearly defined and the way in which they will be delivered and managed is clear within the tender document. We will take a view on the strength or otherwise of these arrangements during the bid assessment process.

Contract duration

Future resources available to the Supporting People programme are as yet uncertain. However, we are keenly aware that any service needs to "bed in" and be given sufficient opportunity to deliver maximum outcomes and that providers are unlikely to consider the start-up implication worth while for a minimal period of contract. The intention is therefore to offer a three year contract to successful bidders with provision for an extension for a further two years, provided both parties agree. Contract termination prior to the three year period or during any extended period will be limited to default procedures or mutual agreement.

Contract size – potential variations

The initial contract size may be varied, depending on the bids received and their price. Bidders should therefore include in their bids any impact on the hourly price should the initial contract size be increased or decreased. Likewise, to manage the risk of significant and unforeseen resource limitations

or indeed growth in resources, contracts will include provision for the number of hours provided to be varied:

- Decrease in provided hours of up to 10% per annum after a 6 month notice period (or less if agreed by both parties)
- Growth in provided hours by agreement with the provider

We therefore expect each bid to include

- The price of the whole number of hours deliverable – based on the above table and lots bid for
- The prices for increments and deductions of 10%, 20% and 30% in the number of hours to be delivered at inception or in years 2 or 3 of the contract

TUPE Considerations

The procurement is intended to replace current Supporting People floating support provision in Barnet, The sector has been actively developed in recent years and now takes up half of Barnet's annual Supporting People grant allocation of c£7.5M.

The restructure of floating support provision is expected to lead to the termination of Supporting People contracts for some 20 existing services employing c70 staff in total.

In the council's opinion, the majority of staff delivering existing floating support services would be entitled to benefit from the TUPE Regulations