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Matter being dealt with by: **Mike Halsall**

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Dear Providers,

**Re: Request for Information - Employment Support Design Project for Over 50’s in Greater Manchester**

The Centre for Ageing Better, in partnership with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and DWP, are looking for providers who can meet the specification (see the draft document below) for designing and testing an approach to support over 50’s within Greater Manchester back into work.

If you can meet the specification, please can you complete the sections below and submit this form through The Chest.

This is only an Expression of Interest at this stage, we are looking to issue and open tender on The Chest following the receipt of information below,

Yours Faithfully



**Mike Halsall MCIPS**

**Category Manager**

**Draft Specification**

**Over 50’s Employment Support Project – Chest brief**

**Background**

The Centre for Ageing Better (Ageing Better), in partnership with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), are looking to establish a large-scale project to develop approaches to supporting over 50s back into work. This project aims to build on our understanding of the barriers to work for over 50s, working with a range of stakeholders to generate approaches to supporting over 50s to return to work. The purpose is to understand needs, prioritise issues, identify target groups and co-design approaches for testing.

This project will involve working with over 50s, service providers, commissioners, policy makers and employers to design an effective model(s) of support, drawing upon their lived experience and expertise.

We believe this project needs to take a design-led approach. This will help to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of the model(s) developed and will support the development of more innovative approaches.

Insights from wider work underway in Greater Manchester (such as the projects being delivered by JobCentre Plus on older workers, Working Well, and skills pilots) will also need to be drawn upon throughout the design process. This project will therefore explore how to complement existing service provision. Whilst it may be that additional, new interventions are developed, it is likely that navigating existing provision will be key, and that there is a lot to gain from redirecting and/or better integration of current health, skills and employment services.

**Scope**

We are looking for an organisation or consortium with experience of using iterative design and prototyping methods across different projects of varying scale. This organisation would need to demonstrate their ability to iteratively identify, implement and assess improvements to ideas developed in design phase​ and their ability to work with a wide range of stakeholders to develop new ideas and approaches. Ideally, we would like to work with an organisation or consortium that has knowledge and understanding of working with local authorities and specifically in employment and skills.

The contract will be split into two parts with a break clause between to the two to assess the outputs and feasibility to continue onto the next stage.

Stage 1: Co-design – we would expect a range of developed approaches to be developed at this phase which could be taken forward for testing.

Stage 2: Prototyping – we would expect a clear and refined blueprint for the prototyped approach/es which defines who the user will be, demand for the approach and budget. Key assumptions would be tested and feasibility and scalability assessed.

**Contract term**

Stage 1: Co-design – approximately 9 months

Stage 2: Prototyping – approximately 9 months

There will be a **break clause** between stage 1 and stage 2, where Ageing Better will assess whether the agreed outcomes and deliverables have been met.

**Budget**

We have an estimated budget of £350k in total for both stages of the project, we are initially projecting £150K for stage 1 and £200K for stage 2, but you can give us your thoughts below and how many projects you feel you can prototype in the 9 month period, and thoughts on the proposed budget split etc.

**Procurement timetable**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EOI released  | EOI responses reviewed | ITT released  | Bidder selected |
| 28th February | 11th March | 16th March | May  |

**Requested Company Information**

**Name of Company**:

**Company address and location**:

**Please state what your company status** (VCSE/third sector organisation/charity/Limited Company/Sole Trader):

**What are your thoughts on the budget? Give us an estimate of your costs for each phase and your reasons why:**

**Phase 1 Cost - £**

**Phase 2 Cost - £**

**Reasons:**

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**If you have carried out a similar service requirement in the past, please complete the below:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Contract 1** | **Contract 2** |
| **Name of customer organisation** |  |  |
| **Details and description of contract**  |  |  |
| **Contract start date** |  |  |
| **Contract completion date** |  |  |
| **Estimated contract value** |  |  |

**We’ve estimated the timeline to be 18 months, could you envisage doing this in less time, additional time or is 18 months accurate? Please specify any reasons for requiring less/additional time;**

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**What additional information do you require to write a successful bid?**

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**Please advise if you are considering a consortium bid for this tender and why;**

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Signed:

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