CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS

Project Ref: 2011061

Expressions of interest (EOIs) are invited for research looking at childcare sufficiency and sustainability in disadvantaged areas. This project is subject to final approval by the Department.

This expression of interest was posted on the 17 November 2011.

Closing date for EOIs: noon Friday 25 November 2011.

BACKGROUND

The roll out of the 15 hours of free early education to disadvantaged 2 year olds entails a rise from 20,000 places to around 130,000 and may represent significant childcare sufficiency and sustainability challenges amongst the sector.

EVALUATION AIMS

We need to understand in more detail the strategies that Local Authorities (LAs) use to secure sufficiency in disadvantaged areas, identifying best practice. Revenue and capital funding in previous years was made available to LAs to support free early education and childcare duties. We need to understand how these funds were used and the rationales for funding decisions. We also need a detailed understanding of the sufficiency and sustainability challenges that LA have faced in the past and might face in the future. And specifically we need to know whether the extension of the two year old entitlement will require sufficiency funding in the future.

METHODOLOGY

We plan to build on the findings from some in-house analysis that we are undertaking (this will hopefully give us a national picture of sufficiency) and identify a small number of local authorities who will act as case studies to enable us to explore in greater detail the sufficiency and sustainability of the childcare market across disadvantaged areas.

The areas will include a mix of areas which have been successful in nurturing a strong childcare market and those that have not. We anticipate that the research methods will include:

- Documentary analysis, this will involve looking in detail at the childcare sufficiency assessments in each of the LA areas;
- Face to face interviews with the local authority leads;
- A mixture of telephone and face to face interviews with a range of providers in each LA area;
• And ideally we would like to speak to a small number of parents who have not been able to secure a childcare place.

TIMING

The research findings will be needed by the end of March 2012. We are seeking expressions of interest on the 25th November and we will issue an invitation to tender to successful organisations in early December, deadline for bids will be confirmed in the invitation to tender but we anticipate a quick turnaround and this is likely to be around the middle of December and the contractors will be appointed and work will commence soon after.

EOI EVALUATION CRITERIA

EOIs will be evaluated under the following headings (note these are not in order of importance)

• Understanding the Department’s requirement (1-5)
• Technical/professional ability (1-5)
• Value of additional relevant skills and experience (1-5)
• Experience of conducting similar studies in the last 3 years (1-5)
• Size of organisation and time in business (1-5)

Scoring:

1. No evidence
2. Poor evidence
3. Some evidence
4. Good evidence
5. Excellent evidence

Expressions of interests submitted must be no more than 750 words – anything longer will be disregarded.

The closing date is noon Friday 25 November 2011. EOIs received after this time will not be considered.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN EOI

You must submit an EOI in order to be considered to be invited to tender. Submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback is however available on request.

In order to express an interest you must be registered with us and you will need your ID number.

If you need to register, please complete the Supplier Registration Form on our website
http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/research/supplierregistration.

If you have forgotten your ID number then please send an email to Enquiries.RBU@education.gsi.gov.uk.

All contracts are let on the basis of the Department’s Terms and Conditions and you are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest.

Please email your EOI to Enquiries.RBU@education.gsi.gov.uk by 12 noon on Friday 25 November 2011. Please put ‘2011061 Childcare sufficiency and sustainability in disadvantaged areas’ in the subject line of your email. EOIs received after this deadline will not be considered. You must include your supplier ID number in your EOI.

Department for Education
17 November 2011