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Ministry
of Defence

Directorate Children and Young People

SHAPING THE FUTURE FOR MOD SCHOOLS AND SETTINGS

Soft Market Test Exercise

The Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) is the professional lead for all matters within Defence relating to Service children and young people including the management and provision of education through a number of MOD schools and settings located worldwide. Changes in Defence over the next few years will result in significant changes to our service.

These changes are being managed through the Ministerially endorsed Education of Service Children Change Programme. One project within that Programme is to undertake a strategic review of education provision and associated targeted services offered by MOD schools and settings for children aged from 0 to 18 years.

This advert is issued to offer interested parties the opportunity to engage with the MOD to shape the future operating model for MOD schools.

DCYP through Service Children's Education and Queen Victoria School currently provides education in 22 schools and settings around the world for the dependant children of Service personnel and entitled MOD civilians, however the drawdown of British Forces from Germany will see this number reduce over the next few years to 13 schools (Cyprus (6), Brunei (1), Netherlands (1), Italy (1), Germany (1), Belgium (1), Falkland Islands (1) and Scotland (1)) and an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in Gibraltar

The enduring MOD schools range from a small primary school with approximately 40 pupils to a secondary school with boarding facilities with around 270 pupils. Provision for three year-olds will continue to be made in Foundation Stage 1 classes, each of which is directly linked to a first or primary school. Whilst the main focus is on providing education to the children of Service personnel and entitled MOD civilians, DCYP also accepts some fee paying students providing they meet the current admission criteria.

DCYP currently employs approximately 960 personnel around the world (including 450 locally employed staff) committed to providing first class education to approximately 5,100 children. The total operating cost is currently circa £50M per year – however this will reduce as our footprint in Germany reduces.

The aim of our strategic review is to identify the optimum operating model that will allow us to achieve our goal of every setting and school to be judged to be at least 'Good' by OfSTED whilst also ensuring value for money for the MOD.

A number of potential operating models are being considered which range from no change through to a complete outsourcing of all education provision and associated support. In order to inform our analysis of the models, and potentially identify further models, DCYP are interested in engaging with organisations with experience in any of the following areas:

- Education delivery over a number of differing locations, particularly overseas.
- Delivery of education support services.
- Delivery of education and/or education support services through joint ventures.
- Delivery of school improvement and/or targeted services.
- A record of introducing successful transformation/business change in the education environment.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting opportunity to help shape the future of MOD schools, please apply for an initial briefing pack by contacting:

Gayle Webster, PD3a, HQ ARTD, Bldg 370, Upavon, Wilts SN9 6BE Email: ARTD-PD3a@mod.uk

Once you have had the chance to consider the content of the briefing pack there will be an opportunity for any parties wishing to be considered for further engagement with this initiative to register their interest and provide details of their relevant experience and track record along with the completion of a short questionnaire.

DCYP will review these submissions and will then select a broad cross section of parties with whom it will conduct bilateral discussions at Upavon, Wiltshire. The purpose of these discussions is to assess the potential benefits, risks and issues associated with the various operating models including greater private sector involvement.

The following is the outline timetable associated with this exercise:

- Briefing packs will be available from Friday 10 July 2015.
- Registrations of interest are to be submitted by 1700 hours on Tuesday 8 September 2015.
- Those selected for bilateral discussions will be notified by Thursday 1 October 2015.

DCYP will not reimburse any costs incurred by any parties who respond to this advert.

This advert was also issued through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on 09 July 2015. In issuing this advert and engaging with the market, MOD is not committing to carry out any procurement in relation to the requirements stated in this advert. Non-participation in this soft market testing exercise will not preclude other potential bidders from any resulting procurement exercise.

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