

## **Opportunities for Oldham Council's children centre research & consultation activity**

Oldham Council's early intervention and prevention service is inviting bidders to undertake life changing and outcomes focused program of research and consultation activity for Oldham's children's centres, linked towards meeting the following indicators:

- NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty
- NI 109 Number of Sure Start children centres
- NI 118 Take up of formal childcare by low-income families
- NI 55 children in reception year who are obese
- NI 53 prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth
- NI 72 achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFSP) with at least 6 points scored in each of the personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and communication, language and literacy (CLL) scales.
- NI 92 Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFSP and the rest
- NI 70 Rate of emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people

The program will feed into Oldham's Economic Block Strategy, Child Poverty Strategy, Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy, and Early Childhood Services Strategy. In response to the Government's stated intentions to have children's centres providing access to a full range of integrated and prevention focussed services in every community by 2010, and supporting the eradication of poverty by 2020, Oldham has committed to the creation of 16 children's centres to improve the outcomes for children and families. The centres aim to support the local authority's new duties under the Childcare Act 2006. Oldham's approach to meeting the duty is to integrate early childhood services through a network of children's centres serving every local area across Oldham. As part of the program of research and consultation activities, bidders are invited to apply for undertaking one or two of following research and consultation options:

### **Research commissioning option A: longitudinal study: Assessing the impact of 3 of Oldham's children's centre services on excluded families in Oldham.**

Bidders wishing to apply for this research tender should be able to demonstrate experience, knowledge and ability in undertaking longitudinal qualitative research amongst children aged 0-5 years and families. The study will aim to:

- Track children accessing three activity sessions in the Hollinwood, Beever and Coldhurst children's centre localities
- Track the pathway families take through the children's centre services and assess the impact on the family
- Assess the child's development with specific emphasis on CLLD and PSED at regular intervals until the foundation stage profile.
- Assess the parents perception of their relationship and management of their child's behaviour

It is expected that:

- The study will not exceed a budget of £72,000 including VAT, and will extend over a period of 18 months
- The commissioned research must commence on 28<sup>th</sup> September and finish by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

**Research commissioning option B: Parental satisfaction survey: To track parent / carers satisfaction levels with children's centre localities across Oldham.**

Bidders wishing to apply for this research tender must demonstrate strong experience, knowledge and capability in undertaking service user satisfaction surveys and proven ability of meeting tight timescales. The research will aim to:

- provide satisfaction levels of parent/ carer children centre service users and serve as a consistent model for collating quantitative locality based data on an annual basis

It is expected that:

- The cost of undertaking the survey should not exceed £23,000 including VAT
- The commissioned research must commence on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, and headline results to be provided by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Instructions for completion and submission of all tenders are contained within the tender pack which can be obtained from Cindy Smith by email at [cindy.smith@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:cindy.smith@oldham.gov.uk).

The closing date for tenders is noon on 21 August 2009. It is expected that shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews to be held on 9 September 2009 at which they must be prepared to present research proposals and be interviewed by the Children's Centre Research Steering Group.