

Commissioning Specification

Introduction

The Housing Block of the Oldham Partnership is seeking to commission delivery of a homelessness mediation service for young people aged 16 to 25 years as part of a range of measures aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness.

It is proposed that the service will be delivered by an independent agency with previous experience of delivering both homelessness and mediation services and with knowledge of the housing issues in Oldham. Funding will be available to commission the service for a period of 12 months with a start date of April 1st 2007.

It is expected that a steering group of key partners will be established to monitor the effectiveness of the service, and that regular reports will be provided to the Homelessness Strategy Group.

Expressions of interest should be submitted on the template provided and addressed as below to arrive no later than 3pm on Wednesday 3rd January 2007

Private and Confidential
(Ref: YPHMS - Eol)
Virbai Kara
OMBC
Level 14 Civic Centre
West St
Oldham
OL1 1XL

Programme Specification

Activity to be Commissioned	Young People's Homelessness Mediation Service
Objective	<p>To deliver a homelessness mediation service, (five days per week), in the Borough of Oldham for young people aged 16 to 25 yrs old.</p> <p>The service will support young people who are in conflict with their families, relatives or friends, (who have been providing them with accommodation), to remain at home or return home thus avoiding homelessness.</p> <p>Other objectives include enabling a return home until a planned move can be made, or reconciling a young person with family and friends, which will reduce a young person's vulnerability, even if they cannot return home.</p>
Target groups	<p>Young people aged 16 to 25 years old who are threatened with homelessness as a result of parents, friends or relatives no longer being willing to accommodate them. Young people who are homeless and wish to rebuild links with family, relatives or friends.</p> <p>The successful delivery agent will be required to provide a full-time service that is accessible to young people from all communities within Oldham and that responds effectively to their individual needs.</p>
Number of beneficiaries	50 young people for whom homelessness will be prevented.
Interventions	Provision of mediation services, supplemented by a secondary intervention of signposting to other agencies for ongoing support to address needs or prevent homelessness.
Duration of programme	1 st April 2007 to 31 st March 2008 - over 5 days a week.
Funding available	Up to £35 k

Relevant Local Area Agreement Indicators and Targets to which the Activity will Contribute	Ref	LAA Indicator	Overall LAA Target	Specific nature of work contributing towards achievement of the LAA Target
	1	Reduce the levels of homelessness acceptances	780 (700)	Mediation work with young people, which will assist in preventing homelessness by addressing and resolving support needs or disputes, when vulnerable young people present as homeless or when they are threatened by homelessness because parents, relatives or friends are no longer able / willing to accommodate them.
	2	Increase the number of cases where Housing Advice prevents homelessness	450	Mediation advice will contribute to increasing the numbers of households where homelessness is prevented
	3	Reduce the number of households placed in B & B	60	Mediation advice will contribute to reducing the numbers of households placed in B & B
	4	Reduce the use of temporary accommodation by 50% by 2010	25	Mediation advice will contribute to reducing the numbers of households being placed in temporary accommodation
Additional requirements and information	<p>The delivery agent will be expected to link with other services that seek to prevent homelessness in Oldham and with First Choice Homes Oldham in the prevention of homelessness and the assessment of homeless households.</p> <p>It is expected that the service will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be promoted through publicity that attracts appropriate referrals • offer drop-in services at appropriate times, venues and locations • undertake one-to-one work with either young people or family members or joint family work with both parties. <p>The delivery agent will be required to keep records of all outcomes, including cases where housing advice casework prevents homelessness.</p> <p>The service will be monitored by a steering group, which will include key partners and stakeholders.</p>			

	<p>It is expected that a successful mediation service will also have a positive impact on community engagement and community cohesion throughout Oldham, with reduced levels of reported youth nuisance and increased engagement in community cohesion activity, both of which will be monitored via Oldham's Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>The service will be reviewed in January 2008 and service users will be consulted as part of the review process.</p>
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