

NCOP-SCiP Alliance Research and Organisational Framework Specification

The SCiP Alliance is seeking experienced researchers to undertake a project to develop an evidence-based continuous improvement framework for organisations such as schools.

Background

The SCiP Alliance is a UK-wide alliance, led by University of Winchester, whose mission is to: *Champion the progression of the children of military personnel into and through further and higher education, so that they can make informed and confident transitions into thriving adult lives and careers.* Further information about the Alliance can be found on our website www.scipalliance.org.

The Alliance has secured funding to work in collaboration with NCOP partnerships to develop three complimentary areas to support schools, colleges and universities in their work with Service children.

1. Mapping and targeting guidance and tool
2. Professional development model and resources
3. Organisational improvement framework

This contract will focus on the development of a robust organisational improvement framework. We expect to take advantage of the field research to inform the other streams and appreciate that this may have resource implications, which we will discuss with the successful proposer before commencing. This specification focuses on the development of the organisational framework only.

We would like to enable organisations to identify improvement priorities through an organisational improvement framework. We envision the framework being a foundation for a range of future developments to support sector improvement, including: a means to identify national support and resource development priorities; a source of national self-reflective performance data; a framework to enable providers to access support that addresses their identified priorities.

Outputs from the Contract

The successful contract holder will undertake the following tasks:

- Convene and consult a project group drawn from the Alliance's existing members and staff team;
- Design and conduct desk and/or field research in discussion with us by 31 January 2019;
- Develop and agree with us a project plan for the completion of the contract to time and budget;
- Produce written project reports describing the research, its findings and recommendations for future work, which demonstrate the approach and outcomes to be academically robust;
- Produce supporting guidance for the effective use of the framework and case studies drawn from the research;
- Produce an evidence-based, user-tested framework for schools by 31 May 2019, ready to scale up geographically (across the UK) and ready for further development so it can be deployed in other education and support settings (e.g. colleges, universities and by other organisations) in the future.

Outcomes from the Contract

We want to develop a continuous improvement framework that:

- Incorporates a robust account of the key features of effective approaches to supporting Service children in schools (and can be developed in subsequent projects to apply to colleges, universities);
- Provides schools with a simple, evidence-based way to identify improvement priorities;
- Demonstrates that we have taken a robust approach to the development of the evidence base underpinning school practice in this area.

Further Guidance

This project responds to priorities identified through research into the education, progression and experiences of Service children, to our UK-wide stakeholder consultation, and to discussions with various key agents. However, we are keen to hear proposers' advice and ideas about how to approach our longer-term intentions so that this project lays an appropriate foundation for subsequent work.

Requirements for Submissions

We invite proposals from suitably experienced and qualified organisations. Enquiries should be addressed to the SCiP Alliance Manager, Katherine Lawrence (katherine.lawrence@winchester.ac.uk) who would be happy to talk through the brief in more detail.

Proposers wishing to be considered for this contract MUST:

- Submit a proposal of no more than four sides of A4 in 10pt font, detailing the following:
 - Proposer's email and telephone contact details
 - Experience relevant to the requirements of the contract specification
 - Additional evidence in support of the proposer's suitability for the contract requirements
 - Understanding of and approach (including the specific methodology) to completing the requirements
 - Email and telephone contact details of a professional referee who can be contacted immediately
 - Provide costings and a breakdown of elements and assumptions including the scale of activity proposed
- We have a budget of £25-30K allocated, depending on the solutions offered; value for money will be one of the key assessment criteria.
- Submit your proposal in PDF format to katherine.lawrence@winchester.ac.uk **by midnight on Sun 21st Oct.**
- Be available for a telephone interview in the week commencing **22 October**, should you be short-listed.

Proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Adherence to the requirements of the specification
- Knowledge and understanding of the context and priorities for the contract
- Experience and expertise relevant to the contract
- Value for money
- Capacity and ability of the supplier to effectively complete the contract within budget and timescale, including the supplier's financial sustainability.

The successful contractor will be required to complete an 'Employment Status Assessment', issued by the University of Winchester, before contract agreement. Terms of invitation:

- The University of Winchester does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced quote
- The University has discretion to accept any part or all of any quote
- The University reserves the right to invite further proposals if it considers that the quotes received do not provide adequate competition or for other good reasons.