

Call for Tenders: Joint research project on identifying integrated family support approaches for families living in the International Protection Accommodation system

The Children's Rights Alliance unites over 100 members working together to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to be a child.

Tusla is dedicated and committed to working in partnership with children, families & communities to ensure that children in need or at risk of harm are supported, protected and connected to people who can safeguard and promote their wellbeing throughout their lives.

Background

In 2020, there were 44 Direct Provision accommodation centres nationwide. At the end of 2020, one in five residents in Direct Provision was a child and there were 1,137 children living with one or both parents.

In 2019, the Children's Rights Alliance published *Safe Haven Needs of Refugee Children Arriving in Ireland through the Irish Refugee Protection Programme: An Exploratory Study*. One of the key recommendations in this report was the need for tailored family support programmes to be developed for refugee parents to support them in adjusting to parenting in a new context. While the *Safe Haven* report focused on families in the Emergency Reception Orientation Centres, it would be beneficial to apply this recommendation to families living in the Direct Provision system. This could be done through Family Support Programmes, non-governmental organisations (NGO) or Family Resource Centres that link in with these families at a local level.

Aims and Objectives of the Research

The Children's Rights Alliance and Tusla, the Child and Family Agency are seeking to jointly contract a consultant to conduct a research study into current family support practices (both onsite and in the community) with a view to identifying needs, exploring what is currently working well and recommending an integrated family support approach to support the particular needs of families living in the international protection accommodation system.

Research Design and Methodology should include the following

- Examine and document the current needs of families in the international protection accommodation system in terms of parenting support, integration, prevention and early intervention and family support.
- Consult with stakeholders to identify what approaches are currently working well in terms of parenting support, integration, prevention and early intervention and family support. This could include consultation with staff members and managers in accommodation centres as

well as relevant staff in Tusla working with families in centres and stakeholders from other agencies and government departments such as the Health Service Executive and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

- The researcher will inform the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of the research in order to access sites for participants.
- The researcher should also consult with children and families in direct provision and those who have come through the system to identify their experience, needs and what is working well.
- To ensure the voice of the child is sought, the researcher should demonstrate how they would propose to include participation methods in terms of children being research participants with respect to ethical considerations, timelines and budget.
- Explore training and support given to relevant staff to help them in their roles supporting families in order to identify any gaps. Tusla will liaise with IPAS for up to date list of centres to provide to the researcher.
- Seek input from NGOs in terms of collaboration in developing and providing an integrated family support approach
- Clarify roles and responsibilities in the area of supporting refugee families to promote effective interagency work.
- The output of the project will be a final report within 6 months of project beginning, outlining the research process, research findings and significant issues for consideration by the CRA and Tusla, with an interim data report / presentation made to the Steering Group. The report should outline the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the support needs of families and highlight best practice to enable Tusla and the Children's Rights Alliance to develop and make recommendations to the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth to inform the development of an effective integrated family support approach to support the particular needs of families living in the international protection accommodation system. This is in line with the recommendations outlined in the White Paper on Ending Direct Provision, the strategic objective in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth *Statement of Strategy 2021-2023* to develop and implement a new model of accommodation and related supports for persons in the International Protection process, centred on a not-for-profit approach, and delivery of ongoing services and the findings of the recently published Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) investigation *Safety and Welfare of Children in Direct Provision*.

The study will be conducted over a six-month period (approximately October 2021 to March 2022). The Children's Rights Alliance and Tusla, along with a Steering Group of relevant stakeholders will oversee the research project.

The Children's Rights Alliance and Tusla will disseminate and promote the study widely in accordance with its policies and procedures to its members, to Government, key statutory bodies, members of the Oireachtas, the media and beyond.

Budget

The total budget for this work is up to €14,000. The Consultant will be responsible for all tax, VAT and other associated liabilities. The Alliance and Tusla will be responsible for contract management for the duration of the project. The successful tenderer will adhere to all the terms and conditions of the contract.

The Contractors reserve the right to withhold payment where the successful Tenderer fails to meet his/her contractual obligations in relation to the delivery of services to an acceptable level of quality.

How to apply

Tenders should be submitted to Tanya Ward, Chief Executive at jobs@childrensrights.ie by close of business on Monday 4 October 2021. Informal queries will be allowed, and can be directed to the following person: Mary Nicholson at mary@childrensright.ie.

The application should include information under the following headings:

- Researcher profiles including relevant experience, skills and knowledge of the sector and study context. This information should include reference to and details of other similar work undertaken previously;
- The lead researcher specified for all correspondence during the lifetime of the project
- Proposed outline of research including methodology, analysis and report writing.
- Proposed budget including a breakdown of costs, timeline and schedule for the delivery of the research project. This should include the costs for all personnel involved in the research project.
- Researcher to adhere to quality assurance processes of the Steering Group for reviewing and commenting on draft outputs prior to finalisation.
- Risk assessment with mitigation and escalation strategy outlining any potential difficulties or delays that may be encountered through the course of the research;
- Ethics review and agreement to adhere to any relevant Research Ethics Committee processes in the Children's Rights Alliance, Tusla and others, as relevant with a particular emphasis on children as research participants;
- Researchers must carry out their work in accordance with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, published by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA, 2017).
- Data processing review in line with Data Protection requirements and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The research project will require a Data Protection Impact Assessment as part of the Tusla Research Ethics application process.
- Evidence of insurance/public indemnity. A formal confirmation of insurance/indemnity held will be part of the Tusla ethical approval process.
- Referees;
- Contact details; and
- Chart outlining a timeline of project deliverables.

Tenderers are advised that Tusla is subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts, 2014. If a Tenderer considers that any of the information supplied in their Tender response is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases the relevant material will, in response to a request under the FOI Act, be examined in the light of the exceptions provided for in the Act.

Evaluation Process

All tenders will be evaluated by the steering group under the following criteria:

- Cost;
- Research design and methodology;
- Relevant experience,
- Skills and knowledge;
- Contract management