
Invitation to Tender for a Briefing Paper on ‘The Importance of Dads’

Introduction

The group known as Dads Direct is inviting researchers to tender for the preparation a Briefing Paper on ‘*The Importance of Dads*’. This piece of work is funded by ‘Awards for All’ within the Big Lottery Fund.

The Dads Direct Steering Group is made up of:

Raymond Calvert, Knock Contact Centre
Joan Davis, Family Mediation NI
Kevin Duggan, Star Sure Start
Colin Fowler, Men’s Health Forum in Ireland
Conor McArdle, South Armagh Sure Start
Heather Knox, Home-Start NI
Pip Jaffa, Parenting NI (Chairperson)
Peter Topping, Relate NI

The aims of Dads Direct are to:

1. improve outcomes for children and young people through supportive work for fathers; and
2. promote the equal role of fathers in a child’s life.

Focussed work has already been undertaken by some of the organisations represented on the Steering Group to encourage support for fathers in their role as parents through changes to policy and practice.

In order to further progress the aims of the group, it has been agreed that a Briefing Paper should be commissioned to evidence research on:

- the important role of Dads in the lives of their children; and
- how the involvement of fathers in a child’s life can improve the outcomes for children.

Briefing Paper

The aim of the Briefing Paper is to show how Dads make a significant contribution to the lives and outcomes of their children.

The Paper should introduce the topic by giving an overview of the current attitudes to fathers held by practitioners, service providers and society in Northern Ireland, and present the policy context within which fathers, and support for fathers, feature. As fathers issues can interface with numerous departments, agencies and services, the paper should reflect this in the references.

The paper should highlight the key issues facing fathers - whether they are living with their children or apart from them.

The Paper needs to draw upon the most recent research (both regionally and internationally) and offer findings, commentary on this research, and recommendations. In particular, the Paper should:

- present an update on the 'What Good Are Dads' publication (www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/uploads/publications/71.pdf); and
- build on the work undertaken in the Man Matters briefing papers - 'Understanding Fatherhood in the 21st Century' (www.qub.ac.uk/sites/media/Media,358434,en.pdf) and 'Fathers, Separation and Co-Parenting' (www.mhfi.org/manmattersbriefing3.pdf).

Purpose

It is intended that the Paper will be launched in June 2015, on Father's Day, to an audience of practitioners and policy makers. It will, subsequently, be disseminated to practitioners at workshops in the five Health and Social Care Trust areas.

Length

The Briefing Paper should be approximately 5,000 words long, be clearly set out, and be written in plain English.

Timeline

Anyone interested in undertaking this piece of work, needs to submit their tender via email by 12.00 Noon on 11th February 2015 to pip@parentingni.org Late tenders will not be accepted.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by 20th February 2015.

The Briefing Paper needs to be completed by 24th April 2015.

Assessment of Applications

As the audience for this Paper will be policy makers and practitioners, tenders will be assessed by the Dads Direct Group against the clarity, credibility and relevance of the proposed papers. Tenders will also be assessed against value for money and relevant experience in this field.

Cost

The maximum total bid for this work that will be considered is £2,500 - to include all expenditure incurred, all travel and VAT if applicable.

Tender Format

Tenders should include the following:

- Name of the primary contact person.
- Organisation / company name.
- Organisation / company address.

- Organisation / company telephone, email and website details.
- Organisation / company background e.g. history, aims, ethos, size, structure etc.
- Evidence of quality standards attained by company.
- Examples of recent work undertaken (especially in the voluntary and community sector) which is similar to our requirements.
- Project Development Plan i.e. how you would propose to meet our requirements - including a timeline.
- Details of who will take the lead (and, if applicable supporting responsibility) for this project - including a brief CV of each person.
- A detailed breakdown of costs for this project and the suggested payment schedule - all figures should include VAT where applicable.
- Names and contact details for two referees (preferably in the voluntary or community sector) whom we can contact to ask about your previous work.

Any Other Questions

Please contact Declan Martin (Email: declan@parentingni.org / Tel: 028 9031 0891) if you have any other questions.