



A project of the partnership of



Invitation to Tender

Travelling to Wellbeing Mental Health Service

Exchange House
Offaly Traveller Movement
West Cork Travellers Association

13th February 2014

Supported by:



1. Introduction:

Travelling to Well Being is undertaking a research programme to be provided during 2014/2015 and wishes to engage an external consultant(s) for the service.

2. Background:

The Travelling to Wellbeing Service (T2WB) through a community development approach aims to reduce the stigma around mental health and suicide in the Traveller community, support individualised culturally appropriate recovery plans with Travellers experiencing mental health issues and address inequalities by working with Travellers and service providers to improve referral pathways and aid recovery. It is funded by the Genio Trust. The research is funded by the HSE.

The T2WB service was set up in December 2012 and is a partnership between Exchange House, Offaly Traveller Movement and West Cork Travellers Associate Ltd.

Exchange House is a National Travellers Service which was established in 1980 at the petition of the Eastern Health Board with the aim of providing family support to the Traveller community in the greater Dublin area. It is now a National organisation of Travellers and settled people working together to provide a wide range of front line services including family support, crisis intervention, addiction counselling services, domestic violence prevention and support, mental health support and recovery, suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention, prison services, homeless and accommodation services, Youth Work Service, after school projects, Education and training services as well as community development; Fas Community Employment Scheme and FAS Local Training Initiative. It also leads and is involved in a wide range of European Funded projects around human rights and equality.

Offaly Traveller Movement (OTM) was launched in 1996 as a response to the needs of the Offaly Traveller community and work for Traveller rights and social justice throughout the county. It is a Traveller led, not for profit, community development organisation offering programmes responding to health, accommodation, youth, education and human rights. The vision of OTM is full equality and social justice for Travellers in County Offaly.

West Cork Travellers

West Cork Travellers (WCT) is a Traveller led not for profit, Community Development Project working to achieve economic, cultural, health, social & political equality for the Traveller Community. The organisation was established in 1985 and it currently delivers a range of services from its centre in Clonakilty as well as outreach provision to the towns of Bantry, Macroom, Bandon and Skibbereen. Services include: Information & Referral; Support & Advocacy; Education & training programmes; Mental Health Service; FAS Community Employment Scheme; Parent Plus Programmes; After school Projects; Individual Counselling; Primary Health Care Programme (providing health information, referral to services, local Community Health Initiatives e.g. walking groups); Traveller Cultural Awareness Training; Development and Support workers operate in all 5 towns and facilitate services therein.

3. Context:

Mental health issues are a growing crisis within the Traveller community. The T2WB service through a community development approach aims to reduce the stigma around mental health and suicide in the Traveller community. Through a person centred approach, it supports and works with up to 40 Travellers per year developing culturally appropriate individualised recovery plans. It also addresses inequalities by working with Travellers and service providers to improve referral pathways and aid recovery. There is a dedicated team of 3 staff; 2 qualified mental health social workers and a mental health family support worker who is a qualified Art Therapist and they work in the Dublin, Cork and Offaly.

4. Aim of the Research:

The overall aim and main focus of the research is to explore what a culturally appropriate response to Traveller mental health would be. It is envisaged that this evidence based research would inform the design of the T2WB service.

Please note the following considerations:

- Explore experiences specific to Travellers which may be linked to mental health issues.
- Explore with Travellers what a culturally appropriate mental health service could look like.
- Document and analyse the ways of working used by the T2WB so far since the beginning of the project and the impact that this has had on the participants and the wider Traveller community.
- Review the tools, methods and approaches which the service has developed.
- Identify and report on the impact of the service on Travellers and the statutory and voluntary sector with a focus on referral pathways and outcomes.
- Look at the cost and benefits of the service.
- Identify and analyse the key strengths and challenges of the service.
- Evaluate and analyse the sustainability of the service.
- Produce a final report to publication standard.

5. Budget:

A total budget of €18,000 - €20,000 (including expenses and VAT) is available for this work.

6. Application Process:

Applicants should provide tender in English and include the following information by e-mail to the address below by 5pm on the closing date for submission of tenders.

- A written proposal including a time plan for the completion of the project and including time plan for each of the project tasks.
- Comprehensive CV which outlines knowledge, experience and skills with reference to the overall aims outlined above
- An outline of knowledge, experience and understanding specifically in relation to Traveller Culture, mental health policy and practice, community development and work with marginalised communities
- Sample/s of relevant work
- A breakdown of the cost (including travel and subsistence) and inclusive of VAT
- Names of referee's
- The proposed methodology should demonstrate knowledge, experience and application of both qualitative and quantitative frameworks, e.g. Participatory Evaluation, Participatory Learning and Action, Use of Visual Data, etc.
- Joint bids should include a breakdown of tasks, number of days' consultancy and per diem rate for each individual together with details of each individual's experience and nominate a lead person for correspondence.

7. Timeline:

Closing date for submission of tenders:	Monday 24 th March 2014
Presentations and interviews:	Friday 4 th April 2014
Commencement of Evaluation:	April 2014
Final report completed:	January 2016

8. Management:

The following terms and conditions regarding the management of the evaluation will apply:

- The chosen consultant/s will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the code of ethics for social researchers established by the British Educational Research Guidelines (BERA), the Sociological Association of Ireland, the British Sociological Association and other such bodies. Special attention needs to be paid to confidentiality and compliance with Data Protection Acts.
- The management of the research and the consultant/s will be the T2WB Steering Group to whom the consultant/s will submit all evaluation work. The consultant/s will be supported by the steering group; however, all aspects of the project will be the responsibility of the successful applicant.
- Ownership of all evaluation material rests with Exchange House & its partners Offaly Traveller Movement and West Cork Travellers along with decisions on all aspects of publication.
- The service provider to indemnify Travelling to Well Being against any claims in respect of data protection issues.
- Travelling to Well Being retains a right to review the service at any time.
- Evidence of an up to date Tax Clearance Certificate should be provided with the tender. Where this is not possible, it will be a condition of the award of this contract that an up to date Tax Clearance Certificate must be submitted prior to commencing the work.
- The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 1997 applies. If a tenderer considers that any of the information supplied is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, it should be identified and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such circumstances, the relevant material may, subject to the provisions of the Act, be protected from access to FOI requests.
- Travelling to Well Being will not be liable in respect of any costs incurred by potential service providers in the preparation of proposals.
- Travelling to Well Being will own the intellectual property rights of the Research/Evaluation report.

9. Award Criteria:

- Demonstration of understanding of the scope of work to be completed.
- The approach, quality, comprehensiveness and suitability of the proposed methodology and supports to be provided.
- Demonstrable ability to effectively carry out the project including knowledge, experience and expertise in relation to Traveller culture, mental health, participatory methods etc.
- Overall cost and value for money.

In the event of a high response to this tender a shortlist may be compiled. Shortlisted tenderers may be invited to make presentation on their proposals to the T2WB Steering Group.

10. Receipt of Tenders:

The closing date for receipt of proposals is not later than 5pm on Monday 24th March 2014. Sole responsibility for meeting this deadline rests with the applicant. Late, incomplete or faxed applications will not be considered.

Tenders should be sent by e-mail to the address on page 5.

Contact Details:

Travelling to Wellbeing

Family Services Team Leader

Exchange House National Travellers Service

61 Great Strand Street

Dublin 1

Email: familyteamleader@exchangehouse.ie

Phone: 01 872 1094