



Invitation to Tender

for

Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships CLG

(Incorporating the Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme)

Provider to conduct Assessment of Early Years Services using ECERS and SSTEWS scales and follow-up reporting

Background

Incorporating the Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme, the main objective of Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships CLG is to govern, support and develop area-based prevention and early intervention programming and approaches that support early childhood development, relationships and environments; to set the foundations for infant and child development, learning, wellbeing, quality of life and outcomes; and by doing so mitigate the intergenerational impact of child poverty.

The subsidiary objectives are:

- Respectfully enhancing skills and early childhood development knowledge, of all parents, practitioners and services
- Strengthening and supporting all relationships and environments that are important to every child's early development
- Embedding systems and community change to support early childhood development
- Undertaking participatory learning and evaluation, documenting and policy development.

This work is underpinned by an innovative Infant Mental Health Framework and draws on best international evidence and practice.

The core work of Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships CLG is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and is part of the Area Based Childhood Programme within the TUSLA Child & Family Agency.



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Our Vision

Our communities are places where children experience happy, healthy, and thriving childhoods that last a lifetime, and no child is left behind.

Our Mission

To work in partnership with everyone important in children's lives, sharing knowledge, skills, and resources, empowering families, and enabling children through their relationships and in their communities to be nurtured, fulfilled, achieving and learning.

One of the four key strands of Let's Grow Together's work is to support Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Services to deliver high quality, inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care for children and families in the Northwest area of Cork city. Since 2015 there has been a strong partnership with eight ECEC settings and three Early Starts with Let's Grow Together providing a suite of EY quality improvement measures and supports based on an evidence-informed, relational approach. Onsite mentoring has instilled an ethos of supportive, relationship-based learning between Let's Grow Together and the eight ECEC settings and three Early Starts.

Let's Grow Together wishes to contract the services of suitably qualified and experienced individual(s) or an organisation to carry out assessment using the ECERS and SSTEWS scales in 20 preschool/Early Start rooms located within the Let's Grow Together catchment area. 20 preschool/Early Start rooms equates approximately to 60 hours of session time.

The initial contract will be to provide baseline information to identify strengths and inform areas of development in order to improve outcomes for children. This will then influence a tailored plan designed by Let's Grow Together involving training, mentoring and the direction of other resources, building on existing strengths and capabilities of each service/room.

SSTEWS and ECERS will be used again as part of a post intervention assessment in two years to evaluate change as a result.

The successful bidder will:

- Prepare participating ECEC settings by providing an information briefing on the ECERS and SSTEWS scale



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- Carry out assessment of 20 preschool and Early Start rooms using the ECERS scale in October 2022 and provide a baseline of quality including evidence of strengths and possible areas for development
- Carry out assessment of 20 preschool and Early Start rooms using the SSTEWS scale in October 2022 and provide a baseline of quality including evidence of strengths and possible areas for development
- Produce an individual report and plan for each room
- Report on overall outcomes/themes from assessment
- Engage all stakeholders to support them in an understanding of their ECERS and SSTEWS baseline
- Provide accessible data to Let's Grow Together for research and evaluation purposes

This work should be completed by 12th December 2022.

Additionally, tenders should include a separate costing for a follow-up piece of work carrying out the SSTEWS and ECERS scales in 2 years as part of a post-intervention assessment to evaluate change as a result. The cost of this follow-up piece of work should be detailed separately from the cost for the primary piece of work which will be conducted this year.

Essential Qualifications & Experience

- Be qualified to the highest standard in using the ECERS and SSTEWS scales
- Have at least 5 years' experience working in Early Childhood Education and Care services
- Have previous experience of using the scales in practice
- Be excellent report writers

Tender Application Details

The successful tenderer will be offered a contract for services with Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships CLG for the primary piece of work to be completed in 2022.

All aspects of the contract, including the written report, must be completed by the 12th December 2022.



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Tender Requirements

The tender must not exceed 10 pages (minimum font 11).

CVs and details of assigned roles of all those people involved in carrying out the contract of work must be submitted.

The tender must demonstrate clear understanding of the tasks set out in tender and the overall aims and outcomes of the pilot project.

The tender must demonstrate how it proposes to achieve the key deliverables of assessment, report/plan, communication, and dissemination.

The tender must include a detailed breakdown of timeframe/tasks involved.

The successful bidder must be able to produce a Current Tax Clearance Certificate and proof of current, relevant insurance coverage(s). In addition, the successful bidder must retain records of tax reference numbers for any subcontractors where payments exceed €635 Euros (incl. VAT).

Assessment of Tender:

Tenders will be examined initially with reference to the following:

- (a) Completeness of proposals as specified in this tender invitation.
- (b) Stated ability of the tenderer to meet all the essential requirements specified in this tender invitation.

Each tender received will be further assessed on the basis of:

CRITERIA	SCORE
Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the brief	30
Previous relevant professional experience in similar settings	40
Approach to achieving key deliverables	50
Value for Money/Costing	50
Ability to deliver in timeframe	50



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Demonstrated ability to communicate/engage with key stakeholders	30
Total	250

Additional Information:

- Additional information may be sought at the assessment phase.
- Before final decision, the most competitive tenders may be invited for further discussions on their proposals for the purpose of elaboration, clarification and/or aiding mutual understanding.
- Costings provided should clearly illustrate the full cost payable by Let's Grow Together for this piece of work including VAT/disbursements where applicable. As cost is a consideration in awarding this contract additional costings for these items cannot be submitted later.
- Let's Grow Together shall not be liable for any costs and/or expenses incurred in respect of the preparation or the submission of any tender documents or associated material.
- Lowest tender is not a guarantee of success.
- Tender submissions must be received electronically by 3.00pm on Monday, 26th September 2022. Please email to info@letsgrowtogether.ie
- Informal queries by email only to kathleen@letsgrowtogether.ie



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