



Department
for Education

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**PROJECT TITLE: REVIEW OF MILITARY ETHOS ALTERNATIVE
PROVISION PROJECTS 2013/14**

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: 2013033

**DEADLINE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: NOON ON TUESDAY 6
MAY 2104**

Background

The Government is committed to raising educational standards in alternative provision and part of this work includes diversifying the sector to help improve the offer of high quality alternative provision for all pupils who, through behaviour, health or otherwise, are not in mainstream schooling. Military Ethos Alternative Provision (AP) is one such innovation to help pupils achieve a good education. The first set of Military Ethos AP grants were awarded in 2012/13, when £3.4m was awarded to four providers. This was expanded in 2013/14 with a total of £4.8m awarded to six providers: the four original providers plus two new organisations.

The project to raise attainment through the use of Military Ethos AP in schools forms part of the Department's wider military ethos work, incorporating cadet expansion, and Troops to Teachers. The aim is to improve the educational outcomes for pupils through using values from a military ethos, such as self-discipline, confidence and teamwork. In particular this work aims to support pupils with behaviour and attendance issues and/or who are either disengaged with education or at risk of becoming disengaged. Focus includes supporting the transitional periods from primary to secondary education and from secondary education into post-16 education or employment alongside part-time study and training. Military Ethos providers have the capacity to operate at national level and to work with primary and secondary schools, other AP providers, and further education and sixth form colleges, utilising the skills of a high proportion of former armed services personnel or other staff with experience in this field of work.

All providers are required to submit monitoring information covering the number and types of pupils served and demonstrate any improvements in attainment, including steps to improve those things which support it such as good behaviour and attendance. To support this, some providers have commissioned independent evaluators to produce tailored evidence on behaviour, attendance and attainment. However, this data is not consistent

across providers and there is no overarching mechanism in place to consider the overall effectiveness of Military Ethos.

Research requirement

The Department for Education (DfE) wishes to commission an independent review of the Military Ethos (AP) projects. All providers are required to submit monitoring information covering the number and types of pupils served and demonstrate any improvements in attainment, including steps to improve those things which support it such as good behaviour and attendance. To support this, some providers have commissioned independent evaluators to produce tailored evidence on behaviour, attendance and attainment. However, this data is not consistent across providers and there is no overarching mechanism in place to consider the overall effectiveness of Military Ethos AP.

In response, the aims of this project are to:

- gather and synthesise the monitoring data and information held by delivery providers;
- critically evaluate project monitoring and evaluation evidence produced or commissioned by the delivery providers;
- report on school, pupil and parent perceptions of Military Ethos AP and the effect it has had on attendance, behaviour and attainment.

It is envisaged that the research will have three strands:

1. secondary analysis to collate, synthesise and critically evaluate Military Ethos AP project monitoring and evaluation data;
2. qualitative research with headteachers, pupil and parents in at least 6 schools;
3. a report bringing together the above, and providing key lessons for subsequent data collection and evaluation.

Timing of the research fieldwork

The contractor will be in place in June 2014 and field visits to schools will need to be completed by the end of the summer term. The contract is likely to run until September 2015.

Expressions of interest

Expressions should be no more than 750 words, and will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. experience of undertaking successful secondary data analysis and qualitative research (50%);
2. experience of previous research working within schools, alternative provision settings, with teaching staff and disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils (25%);
3. staff capacity, experience and demonstrable evidence of working to tight timescales (25%).

Timescales

Expressions of interest will close at noon on Tuesday 6 May 2014. Invitations to tender will be issued to shortlisted organisations by Friday 9 May 2014.

Please contact Christopher Price (Christopher.PRICE@education.gsi.gov.uk) or Michele Weatherburn (Michele.WEATHERBURN@education.gsi.gov.uk) with any queries regarding the research project.

Budget

A budget in the range of £25,000 (excluding any VAT element) is available for this work.

How to submit an EOI

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered for an invitation to tender. To do so, please complete the Expression of Interest Research template found on the Department's [Research website](#). A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have been unsuccessful. However, feedback is available on request.

In order to complete an EOI you must be registered with us and will need your ID number. If you need to register then please do so using the on-line [Supplier Registration Form](#). If you have already registered but forgotten your ID number, please send an e-mail to Enquiries.RBU@education.gsi.gov.uk.

All contracts are let on the basis of the Department's [Terms and Conditions](#) and you are encouraged to check these before submitting your EOI.

Please e-mail a Word copy of the template to Christopher Price (Christopher.PRICE@education.gsi.gov.uk) and Michele Weatherburn (Michele.WEATHERBURN@education.gsi.gov.uk) by noon **6 May 2014**. EOIs received after this deadline will not be considered. You must include your supplier ID number in your EOI. Please put **"2013033 – Review of Military Ethos Alternative Provision – EOI"** in the subject line of your email.