

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THERAPUTIC SESSIONAL SUPPORT PANEL (REGIONAL)

2025-6





5th March 2025

Dear Applicant,

## Re: Invitation to tender

Adopt NI are inviting you to tender for the delivery of group and one to one therapeutic support services to Adopt NI service users on a sessional basis.

Adopt NI are committed to providing services on a regional basis for adult adoptees, birth parents and siblings of adult adoptees and any adult affected by separation from their family of origin. We wish to appoint a panel of sessional therapeutic support workers to cover all of Northern Ireland, in order that our service users have access to peer group in a locality close to them if face to face is preferred. We are seeking individuals who are committed to best practice and understand trauma to work with Adopt NI in meeting the needs of our service users.

The documents within contain all you need to submit your tender. Please read them carefully.

Tenders will only be accepted using the template provided. For further information on our work, please visit [www.adoptni.org](http://www.adoptni.org/)

We look forward to receiving your submission. Yours faithfully,



Ciara Scully

CEO

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## Adopt NI

Adopt NI (Est. 1989) was born out of legislative change in 1987, when adopted adults in NI were afforded the right to access their original birth certificates. There followed a need for the provision of support services for adults linked to the adoption triangle in accessing information, contacting family of origin and being able to meet others with similar experiences.

Adopt NI is a Private Limited Company by guarantee and a registered charity. We offer services on a regional basis to any adult affected by adoption (adopted adults, birth parents, siblings, adoptive parents) or separation from their family of origin.

Adoption is a lifelong journey. We understand the trauma associated with separation from family of origin and the need for information and support around identity, past and birth family. Our work is supported by a Board of Directors, many of whom have personal experience of adoption, as well as staff with personal experience of adoption.

Our service is expanding to support victims and survivors of the mother and baby homes, Magdalene laundries and workhouses in NI in information recovery, family tracing and therapeutic support.

Funding:

The funding for this service is provided by the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) and is currently available until 31st March 2029 with services reviewed annually. This funding may be extended.

# INVITATION TO TENDER

We are inviting tender applications from experienced and competent trauma informed facilitators, to deliver peer support groups and one to one therapeutic support on a sessional basis and within the mission and values of Adopt NI.

Successful applicants will provide the service as self-employed, independent contractors. The role will include

* Provide trauma informed, facilitated peer support to both individuals and groups. This will be adults affected by adoption, separation from family of origin and individuals with experience of Mother & Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries, Workhouses & their Pathways and Practices in NI.
* A key aim for the group facilitator will be to use a trauma informed approach, to always ensure the safety of service users.
* Group sessions are organised and implemented appropriately within the Adopt NI’s values.
* One to one support is provided using a trauma informed, person centred approach.
* Understand the complex needs of the service users who may attend peer support groups, offering appropriate signposting where appropriate.
* Promote the benefits of each programme in enhancing the physical, emotional, and social wellbeing of service users.
* Ensure that appropriate information systems are maintained to allow easy monitoring and evaluation of programme delivery work.
* To observe strictly the principle of confidentiality.
* Coordinate with other funding partners, healthcare providers, agencies, and community resources to signpost service users if required
* Regular meetings with the CEO and project team to ensure health and safety and all other appropriate policies and procedures are adhered to.

## Process for application and evaluation.

1. Passing selection criteria.
2. Evaluation and scoring of tenders that satisfy the minimum criteria by an evaluation panel using the selection criteria below.
3. The evaluation panel will then meet with those providers whose tender has reached the required threshold, to clarify information provided and finalise scores.

## Evaluation

1. Selection criteria

All tender applications must pass the criteria below to proceed to evaluation.

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| --- | --- |
| **SELECTION CRITERIA** | **PASS OR FAIL** |
| 1. Minimum of two years’ experience delivering therapeutic support (either on-line and face to face) to service users with complex needs. |  |
| 2. Evidence by qualification or demonstrable experience of a trauma informed approach. |  |
| 3. Demonstratable experience of implementing adult safeguarding practices in a group setting. |  |
| 4. Valid and current certificate of professional indemnity insurance. |  |
| 5. Up to date CV submitted |  |

1. Award Criteria.

If successful at selection criteria stage, your tender will then be evaluated on the criteria below based on your answers in the awards criteria section.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **AWARD CRITERIA 100%** | **Percentage Mark** | **Total Mark** |
| **Quality**   1. Methodology, approach, and plan 2. Knowledge and understanding of the brief 3. Safeguarding   **Price** | 40  30  20  10 | **90%**  **10%** |

## Award Quality Scoring Criteria

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Classification** | **Definition** |
| 0 | No response / insufficient response | No response or limited information to inform a  solution. |
| 1-2 | Unsatisfactory response (some potential but weak) | Unacceptable submission doesn’t meet requirements, little or no details or evidence to support that the applicant will have ability to provide services.  Reservation around applicant’s ability / skills / resources to deliver.  Presents a high risk. |
| 3-4 | Partially acceptable response with some areas of weakness | Weak submission lacking a definitive solution to meet the requirements of the tender  Reservation around applicant’s ability / skills / resources to deliver.  Presents a high risk. |
| 5-6 | Satisfactory response with no major concerns | Submission sets out a solution that largely addresses and meets requirements, in some detail with some relevant supporting evidence.  Minor reservations or weakness in some areas in relation to ability / skills/ resources to deliver.  Presents medium but acceptable level of risk. |
| 7-8 | Extremely satisfactory response meeting all requirements | Sets out a strong and detailed plan to fully meet requirements, including full and relevant evidence.  Provides assurance to relevant ability / skills / resources required to deliver.  Low to no risk. |
| 9-10 | Exemplary response meeting or exceeding all requirements | Robust solution in submission, which offers additional value or elements of the solution which exceed the requirements.  Provides full confidence to relevant ability / skills / resources required.  Low to no risk. |

**Price Scoring criteria**

Worth 10% of overall submission. There is an upper threshold attached to this tender and costs will be scored comparatively. Please note there is no allowance for travel, materials, or subsistence in this award. The lowest tender in terms of price does not mean that it will be successful.

1. Meeting with the evaluation panel

The evaluation panel will meet with providers who have scored over 60% at evaluation stage, to clarify information provided in the application and confirm scores. Confirmed scores of over 60% will be invited to join the sessional panel.

It is anticipated that evaluation panel meetings will be held week beginning 24th March 2025.

All applicants will be notified of the result of their application. Please note that inclusion on the sessional panel does not guarantee any hours.

All applications will be treated with strict confidentiality, in line with GDPR requirements and will not be shared with anyone outside of the formal evaluation process.

Please note sessional roles are subject to Access NI enhanced disclosure checks carried out by Adopt NI.

Please return completed applications by email marked private and confidential and stating ‘Tender for sessional therapeutic support services’ to: india@adoptni.org

**Closing date for applications is:**

**5pm Wednesday 19th March 2025**

# TENDER APPLICATION FOR THERAPUTIC SESSIONAL SUPPORT PANEL

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

E-mail address:

Date:

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| SELECTION CRITERIA |
| 1. **Minimum of two years’ experience delivering therapeutic support to groups, individuals or both (on-line and face to face) to service users with complex needs.** |

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| **2. Evidence by qualification or demonstrable experience of a trauma informed approach.** |

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| 3. Demonstrate your experience of implementing adult safeguarding practices in a group setting.  *Please provide a copy of your most recent adult safeguarding certificate.* |
| **4. Valid and current certificate of professional indemnity insurance**.  *Please provide details and copy of certificate of professional liability insurance including cover period and level of indemnity.* |
| **5. Please include a CV with application form** |

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| AWARD CRITERIA |
| **1. Methodology approach and plan (40%)** |
| 1.2 Please detail your therapeutic approach, the value base from which you work and the range of client issues you have been working on in the past year both individually and in group work. |
| 1.3 Please detail your approach to records keeping (specific to GDPR and confidentiality) and how you monitor and evaluate the outcomes of sessions you currently provide. |

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| **2. Knowledge and brief (30%)** |
| 2.1 Please detail your knowledge of trauma relating to adoption and/or separation from family of origin. |
| 2.2 Please detail your understanding and awareness of the needs of the service users of Adopt NI. |
| 2.3 Please detail your knowledge of risk management in a therapeutic group setting. |

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| 2.4 Please detail evidence of continuous professional development. |

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| **3. Health and safety (20%)** |
| 3.1 Details of all relevant training including, if relevant: adult safeguarding, mental health first aid, suicide prevention and risk assessment and management. |

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| **4. Cost (10%)** |
| 4.1 Please note, there is no allowance for travel or materials so please ensure these are included in your cost. Please provide your hourly rate for session including travel, materials, and subsistence. |

# REFERENCES

Please provide the details of two referees, not related to you, and ideally one from a manager from an organisation you have previously delivered services for. A second can be in a professional or client capacity.

References will only be sought if your application meets the necessary threshold, and you are invited to join the counselling / psychotherapy panel.

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| --- | --- |
| **REFEREE 1** | **REFEREE 2** |
| Name: | Name: |
| Address:  Postcode: | Address:  Postcode: |
| Phone number: | Phone number: |
| E-mail: | E-mail: |

Your Name in full:

Signature:

Date:

**APPLICANT CHECKLIST**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DOCUMENTS** | **SUBMITTED** |
| Completed tender application form |  |
| Evidence of qualifications (including trauma or case study if relevant) |  |
| Certificate of up-to-date Professional  Liability Insurance |  |
| Up to Date CV |  |