

Invitation to tender – Costing a national programme to reduce rough sleeping from hospital and prevent unsafe discharges

Summary

- This document invites proposals to undertake econometric modelling to cost the development of a national programme designed to provide specialist intermediate care for people at risk of/experiencing homelessness. This will support Pathway to build the economic case for change required to influence government to make the necessary policy, funding and legislative changes to ensure there is sufficient intermediate care for all people experiencing homelessness who need it.
- The main outputs of this work are:
 - i. A cost analysis of a ‘do nothing’ approach i.e. the cost to public services that street discharge and insufficient levels of specialist intermediate care incur on a national scale.
 - ii. Econometric modelling to assess the cost of a national long-term ring-fenced programme of specialist intermediate care i.e. including revenue and capital costs.
 - iii. A cost benefit analysis of a national long-term ring-fenced programme of specialist intermediate care of up to three cost scenarios i.e. long-term cost savings for public services.

The outputs will need to be presented in a format that is accessible for decision-makers to engage with and used by Pathway and their partners to develop policy recommendations.

- We are looking for bidders with experience and expertise in the following areas:
 - Econometric modelling.
 - Providing data and conducting research in the area of health, hospital discharge, homelessness and inclusion health or related areas.
 - Synthesising explorative data for policy and practice influencing.
 - Experience of cost modelling and assumption building where there are gaps in data
- The successful bidder will begin work in May 2024 and we expect the work to be completed in late August 2024.
- The budget for the work is up to £25K including VAT and proposals should include a breakdown of project costs based on the below specifications.

- We are happy to speak to people interested in bidding for this work before their submissions – please get in touch with us if there’s anything you’d like to speak about.
- The deadline for submissions is Friday 19th April 2024.

About Pathway

Pathway is the UK’s leading homeless and inclusion healthcare charity. We work with the NHS to help spread and develop our successful model of enhanced care coordination for people experiencing homelessness and other excluded groups. We work to improve the quality of healthcare that people in inclusion health groups receive by developing and sharing best models of care; increasing specialist skills of workers in healthcare; influencing national policy; and reducing stigma in healthcare against people experiencing multiple exclusion.

About this project

A combination of system failures and lack of sustained investment means that too many people facing homelessness are discharged from hospital onto the streets or into poor quality temporary accommodation, often while still recovering from the serious illness or injury that brought them into hospital. These unsafe discharges are both a missed opportunity to use a hospital admission to resolve or prevent rough sleeping, perpetuating poor outcomes, and a sign that health and housing services have failed to coordinate to secure more effective outcomes.

We know that the provision of specialist intermediate care for people experiencing homelessness offers a solution to the problem of street discharge. Intermediate care provides short-term care and support to help people to recover after a stay in hospital, connecting them to long-term accommodation, and avoiding unsafe discharges. The core components of this provision are personalised treatment and a focus on recovery, including co-ordinated planning around more permanent housing. Intermediate care that is tailored to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness has been a strategic priority for Pathway since our inception and over the years we have seen, and been responsible for, significant developments in the area. However, we have not seen the step change in funding and provision required to truly shift the dial nationally; specialist intermediate care is often funded by short-term funding programmes and pilots, on which they cannot survive.

Pathway are therefore launching a programme of work which aims to influence government to make the necessary policy, funding and legislative changes to ensure there is sufficient intermediate care for all people experiencing homelessness who need it. We aim to secure a long-term government spending commitment in the next spending review to fund the additional provision in intermediate care that is necessary to deliver this entitlement, supported by policy change and political will.

We have designed a multi-pronged approach that aims to tackle the problem at hand on all fronts by segmenting the decision makers we need to influence and taking a different approach to each. This combination of approaches is necessary to gain the backing of all the players who will be involved in the step change we are aiming for. The four key elements to the project therefore are:

1. Building the economic case for change, and solutions.
2. Building the policy case for change, and solutions.

3. Building the human case for change.
4. Running a public campaign to highlight each of these cases and raise political will.

The econometric modelling will primarily support strand 1 but will also need to be able to communicate the economic costs and benefits of a step change in intermediate care clearly in support of strands 2 and 4.

The research brief

We would like a contractor to conduct the econometric analysis necessary to develop our economic case for change. This should include:

- An assessment of the need for intermediate care among people facing homelessness, an assessment of the existing provision, and an assessment of the gap that needs to be filled.
- A cost analysis of a ‘do nothing’ approach i.e. the cost to public services that street discharge and insufficient levels of specialist intermediate care incur on a local and national scale.
- Econometric modelling to assess the cost of a national long-term ring-fenced programme of specialist intermediate care i.e. including revenue and capital costs.
- A cost benefit analysis of a national long-term ring-fenced programme of specialist intermediate care i.e. long-term cost savings for public services.

Please note that data from this analysis is intended for influencing and campaigning purposes, including spending review negotiations, and would need to be appropriate for a variety of audiences including the general public, while being robust enough to meet the standards in the Green Book.

People facing homelessness are routinely under-represented in healthcare data, and the need for intermediate care will not be immediately evidence in the data. Prospective contractors will need to demonstrate the skills and willingness to work with best available evidence, generating new evidence and assumptions where necessary, including through modelling.

Outputs

- Written briefing
- Data tables of the model in an accessible format which can be updated for future use
- Meeting to disseminate and explain the findings

Timeline

Milestone/Output	Date
Tender published	Thursday 28 th March
Deadline for proposals	Friday 19 th April
Selection of contractor	W/c 22 nd April
Project start and inception meeting	W/c 29 th April
Fieldwork	Beginning of May – End of August

Outputs submitted	30 th August
Dissemination meeting	Early September

If you require additional time for any aspects of the work, please provide a breakdown of the items and the additional timeframes required to complete these.

Budget

Research bids should include a breakdown of costs by day and activity.

If the allocated cost to conduct the outlined specification exceeds £21,000 + VAT (=£25,200) please can contractors set out what is possible within this budget and how much of the full specification falls outside of this amount and what the additional expenditure would add to the work.

Project Management

The contractor/s will be responsible for managing the elements of the project for which they are responsible. We will work closely with and support the contractor/s with this.

The overall project will be managed by Pathway's Policy team:

Dee O'Connell: dee.oconnell@pathway.org.uk

Emily Page: emily.page@pathway.org.uk

Proposal information

Your proposal should set out:

1. An explanation of how your work will address the brief.
2. Details of methodologies.
3. A breakdown of costs and estimated timeframes.
4. A schedule for completion of the work.
5. The relevant experience of the organisation and/or individual delivering the project, including where possible examples of similar work you have carried out.
6. A summary of challenges and risks you foresee and how these will be mitigated.

Evaluation criteria

Evaluations will be based on a written bid. We will assess bids according to the following criteria:

- 1) The extent to which the proposal meets the brief;
- 2) The contractors' experience of similar work and knowledge in the subject area;
- 3) Costs and value for money;
- 4) Ability to meet the specified timescale.

We accept bids in PowerPoint, Word or PDF format. Submissions should be sent in an email to info@pathway.org.uk.