



Parenting Evidence Review: Scotland 2023

Invitation to Tender

November 2023

Introduction

This invitation to tender sets out the scope and requirements for research Parenting across Scotland is commissioning.

We are seeking proposals for a small, short term and focused research project to help us understand the key issues, challenges and priorities faced by parents and those in a parenting role in Scotland today. The project will review evidence published in Scotland in 2023 that focuses on the lived experience and needs of parents and those in a parenting role. Evidence gathered will be brought together into a final report that will be used to inform Parenting across Scotland's future work.

The deadline for this proposal is Monday 18th December at 9am.

About Parenting across Scotland

Parenting across Scotland (PAS) supports children and families through its network of member organisations. We work together to realise our vision: a Scotland where all parents and families are valued and supported to give children the best possible start in life.

Together with our member organisations we bring the parent voice to national and local policymakers and to service providers, setting and illuminating the agenda for what needs to change, and catalysing improvements in policy and practice.

Our activities include:

- bringing the diverse voices of parents into the policymaking arena through research and consultation
- identifying, analysing, and highlighting how and where decisions in any sector affect parents
- working with our member organisations to strengthen collective knowledge and reach
- enabling, supporting and reporting on innovation and tests of change relevant to parents and families

We achieve our goals by linking closely with PAS member organisations and the wider sector.

Purpose of this research

PAS would like to commission a rapid review of evidence published in Scotland in 2023 that focuses on parents and carers lived experiences and circumstances. The purpose of this research is to understand the key issues, challenges and priorities faced by parents and those in a parenting role in Scotland today.

We would like to know which groups of parents and carers have been involved in Scottish research over the last year (in terms of geographies and types of families for example) and whether there are any gaps with regards to who has been included in these activities.

The review will provide evidence to inform PAS' policy priorities and influencing activity. It will also help shape future research priorities, particularly where evidence gaps are identified.

Policy context

We know from talking to our members and others working directly with families that many parents and carers are facing significant challenges, whether that is related to the rising cost of living, the aftermath of the pandemic, poor health or other factors in their lives.

The Scottish Government has committed to supporting families through a number of different policy initiatives. This includes a focus on;

- Increasing access to whole family support through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund
- Tackling child poverty through measures including the Scottish Child Payment
- Expanding the entitlement to early learning and childcare and out of school care
- Providing the Baby Box to all new babies born in Scotland
- Increasing access to information about parenting through the Parent Club website
- Increasing access to specialist support such as perinatal mental health services.

We are interested to find out what, if anything parents and carers have to say about these policy areas. We are also interested whether there are any other themes or topics relating to parenting or family lives that are of importance to them.

Research questions

The research will seek to answer the following overarching research question;

Using published evidence, what are the key issues, challenges and priorities faced by parents and those in a parenting role in Scotland today?

We are particularly interested in understanding;

- The demographics and characteristics of research participants
- How parents and carers views map onto key Scottish Government policy areas of relevance to families (including but not necessarily limited to those above)

- Any identified gaps in the evidence base (including particular demographics or policy areas not included)

The following inclusion and exclusion criteria apply;

<i>Included</i>	<i>Excluded</i>
2023 publication date	Publication date outwith this timeframe
Scotland based	From outside Scotland
Research participants are parents, carers or others in a parenting role	Research participants are not parents, carers or others in a parenting role
Qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods research with identified methods and numbers of participants	News articles or blogs
Research relates to parenting role or family lives	Research does not relate to parenting role or family lives

The review could include qualitative and quantitative research, although we are particularly interested in qualitative research that provides evidence in parents and carers' own words.

The review could include academic and grey literature but we believe that the most relevant and up to date evidence is likely to be in the grey literature, published by third sector organisations and public bodies.

Given the limited resource available for this work, we welcome applicants outlining their approach to ensuring that the most relevant research is included in the review.

Timetable

We would like this work to be completed by Tuesday 30th April 2024. We invite proposals to contain a timetable that works towards this deadline.

PAS Not Bound

The Invitation to Tender does not constitute an offer and PAS does not bind itself to accept the lowest price, or any, proposal. Parenting across Scotland reserves the right to accept a proposal in part, rather than in full.

Contract

A contract agreement will be drawn up by PAS with the successful provider. Copyright and ownership of outputs will be owned by PAS. The contractor will be acknowledged as author in all published outputs.

Outputs

We would like the contractor to produce a final report and the information needed to produce a one page infographic. The contractor does not need to undertake design work on either the report or infographic as this will be done by PAS's designer.

PAS will publish and disseminate the report and infographic with a view to influencing policy and practice.

Questions

If you have any questions about this research, please contact amy.woodhouse@parentingacrossscotland.org by 5pm on Wednesday 6th December 2023 and we will do our best to answer them.

Your proposal to us

Part 1. General information

Please provide the following information:

1.1	Name of organisation:	
1.2	Address: Post Code:	
1.3	Telephone number:	
1.4	E-mail address:	
1.6	Company/ Charity Registration number (if applicable): Company D&B number (if applicable):	
1.7	VAT Registration number:	
1.8	Is your organisation: (Please tick one)	i) a public limited company
		ii) a limited company
		iii) a partnership
		iv) a sole trader
		v) other (please specify)
1.9	Name of (ultimate) parent company (if this applies):	
1.10	Companies House Registration number of parent company (if this applies):	

Part 2. Proposed methodology

Please set out your proposed methodology, setting out the work you propose to undertake, and showing how you will meet the requirements in the tender. In particular, please outline

- Your indicative search strategy for finding relevant research
- How you will screen research for relevance
- How you will manage, analyse and report on included research

Please also include:

- A risk register with clear mitigation measures
- Information about how you would propose to work with Parenting across Scotland throughout the project.

The methodology section should be no more than 5 pages in length.

Part 3. Experience and expertise

Please provide three examples of recent work which demonstrate your expertise and track record. Where possible please provide example reports. Please confirm the team who will be working on the project, their roles and demonstrate their suitability.

Part 4. Cost proposal

The price and rates quoted shall be the fully inclusive value of the service, with VAT itemised separately if due. Please provide your proposed costs in the table below. The indicative value of this tender is in the region of £5000. There may some flexibility depending on the nature of the proposal and we would invite providers to reach out to discuss.

Work stage / activity	Daily rate	Proposed number of hours/days	Total cost GBP
TOTAL staff costs (GBP)			
Other costs (please itemise)			
TOTAL other costs (GBP)			
TOTAL COSTS (GBP)			
VAT			

PAS will not be liable for any additional costs that are not set out in the proposal. Please also indicate whether your services would be subject to VAT and if so include VAT in the table above.

Scoring

Your bid will be scored against the scoring criteria as outlined below. Each criteria will be given a rating out of 5 (5 being excellent) and subsequently multiplied with the weighting percentage.

Knowledge and experience that indicates the ability to meet the research requirements of the specifications as set out by Parenting across Scotland	40%
Proposed methodology and ability to implement a thorough, practical and realistic approach to the research	40%
Ability to meet the timescales set out by Parenting across Scotland including a clear and realistic delivery plan	10%
Ability to demonstrate value for money, acknowledging that Parenting across Scotland is a charity.	10%

Timeframe

The proposed timeframe for completion of the report is 30th April 2023.

Tender issued	Monday 27 th November 2023
Deadline for questions from prospective bidders	5pm, Wednesday 6 th December 2023
Deadline for submission of tenders	9am, Monday 18 th December 2023
Bidders notified of outcome and successful bidder appointed	Thursday 21 st December 2023
Inception meeting	Early January 2023
Work starts	January 2023
Update meetings	tbc (monthly)
Draft report submitted	Tuesday 16 th April 2023
Final report submitted	Tuesday 30 th April 2023

Further information

For any questions regarding this tender and to submit your proposal, please Amy Woodhouse, Chief Executive, Parenting across Scotland
amy.woodhouse@parentingacrossscotland.org

With grateful thanks to Save the Children Scotland who gave permission for us to use their Invitation to Tender template to shape this document.