

NEWSLETTER



The independent

SCHOOL FOOD PLAN

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In the No.9 Newsletter dated 10.1.14, I included a piece about the DfE bidding process for the three different lots for three key areas.

In the last paragraph it was stated that "LACA was involved in what I think is a strong bid and want to reassure LACA members that "we're in the frame!!"

I am delighted to announce that we have heard from the DfE that the joint bid submitted by LACA and the Children's Food Trust (CFT) has been successful and accepted by the DfE to deliver the aspects of Lot 1.

The specification of requirement for Lot 1 is, "the provision of services to help schools prepare to provide free school meals to all infant pupils from September 2014 in England."

The funding allocation for Lot 1 is £9.6 million and has been given in total to the joint LACA/CFT bid which I believe is excellent news for the industry.

I am sure that you will appreciate that a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to achieve this outcome.

An agreement has been brokered between the two organisations – LACA and CFT that has resulted in that we are the lead partners on an equal basis and joint decision makers throughout the 22 month project.

As part of this equal collaboration, LACA has had the

agreement for a third party representative to act on our behalf and Elygra Marketing will be undertaking this role.

Both LACA and CFT will be joint contractors with the DfE for the delivery of the contract and will jointly lead and manage a consortium of agreed delivery partners that are listed below:

- Food for Life Partnership
- Craft Guild of Chefs
- SFP Small Schools Taskforce
- Foodservice Consultants Society International (FCSI)
- Elygra Marketing
- Dewberry Redpoint

Both Linda Cregan – Chief Executive of CFT and myself as the National Chair for LACA are thrilled to make this special announcement.

We believe that this collaboration has significant advantages in combining the countries best expertise, knowledge and skills and we were therefore able to jointly put forward a very strong bid.

The consortium has vast experience of delivering previous projects to a similar level, value and scale.

The project outlined that the consortia plan to offer an integrated national advice and direct support service using five levels of engagement and aims to support those schools facing the most significant challenges.

The timescale is tight and there will be many schools that will appreciate some advice and support in readiness for the new

provision of free infant school meals from September. This project will help them with this and I expect that with this news, there will be LACA members that may want to be involved.

An "expression of interest" was circulated a couple of weeks ago but we are looking for LACA Advisers and LACA are pleased to have extended the deadline for returned expressions of interest to Friday 7th March. In the first instance please send:

1. A copy of your CV – please ensure this details relevant key skills that demonstrate your suitability for the type of work necessary to meet the needs to support schools in readiness for UIFSM.
2. Cover letter identifying your availability (days of the week or times available)
3. Copy of your DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate
4. LACA region or area that you are prepared to work in.

By post to: UIFSM Expressions of Interest (EOI), c/o Elygra Marketing Services, 6 The Quad, Sovereign Way, Chester CH1 4QP or email mail@elygra.co.uk

At the forthcoming LACA Seminar and Members Forum on the 7th March at Chesford Grange, Linda Cregan and myself will be jointly presenting the details of how the DfE bid will work so please sign up and come and hear first-hand how the advice and support will be delivered by this joint collaboration!!

Anne Bull, National Chair