

## South West Specialist Immigration Solutions Project

*Brief – February 2022*

### Introduction

**Bristol Law Centre** is a charity providing free legal advice in specialist areas of social welfare law, and also represents clients in court. We help over 1,500 people a year access the justice system thanks to our funders, sponsors and committed staff and volunteers. We also help more than 5,000 enquirers, offer legal education and training, and work on our own and with partners to push for changes to public policy that promote equality and justice.

[www.bristollawcentre.org.uk](http://www.bristollawcentre.org.uk)

**Bristol Refugee Rights** is the largest local organisation in Bristol delivering services to asylum seekers and refugees. We provide a holistic range of services including English classes, social activities and advice. We are accredited to OISC Level 3 but lack capacity, particularly for supervision, to make full use of this. We aim to be lived experience led. BRR are a founding member of the Asylum Early Action national partnership which aims to create system change in refugee and asylum services by shifting from crisis response to prevention mode. We are also a founding and lead member of the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership - a partnership of 16 organisations whose primary purpose is supporting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Bristol and the surrounding area.

[www.bristolrefugeerights.org](http://www.bristolrefugeerights.org)

**Justice Together** is a funder collaboration whose mission is to build a community of people and organisations with diverse backgrounds, strengths, and experience to transform access to justice in the UK immigration system.

Through grant-making and collaboration, they aim to connect lived experience, front-line advice and influencing strategies to create lasting change. Their vision is that people who use the immigration system can access justice fairly and equally, so that they can get on with their lives. [www.justicetogether.org.uk](http://www.justicetogether.org.uk)

### Justice Together Development Project

Bristol Law Centre and Bristol Refugee Rights have been funded by Justice Together for a small project to identify the challenges currently facing the South West in terms of the provision of specialist immigration advice and to come up with proposals for a more accessible, sustainable, collaborative and co-ordinated sector in the best interests of clients.

In this development phase we plan to show that the region can work together to identify challenges in the accessibility and provision of specialist immigration advice and to work up an agreed proposal to establish a strong sector in which immigration advisors, particularly at OISC levels 2 and 3 can be skilled-up or recruited and retained. The mission of the consultant will be to suggest proposals that will focus on long term sustainability in the light of the squeeze on the budgets of local authorities and the inability of clients to pay privately for advice.

The project will involve facilitating the engagement of a range of stakeholders, including those with lived experience and specialist/potential specialist immigration advice providers in identifying the problems and developing solutions.

## What we are aiming to achieve through this tender

### Aims:

- to map current challenges in the provision of specialist immigration advice
- to develop model(s) for solutions for the region and deliver a proposal for future funding to deliver
- to learn from long term solutions being tested in other parts of the country, including but not limited to those funded by Justice Together
- to involve specialist/potential specialist immigration advice providers in identifying the problem and developing solutions and to keep them informed as the project progresses
- to learn from the experiences of people with the lived experiences of immigration advice and the UK immigration/asylum process in identifying the challenges and potential solutions

### Outcomes:

The consultant must deliver the following:

No	Outcome	Due date
1	Collate existing research on challenges and good practice and address any gaps in knowledge and understanding	April 2022
2	Engagement with SW Organisations including <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- providing a series of opportunities to input to help build mapping and models</li><li>- briefing for SW organisations on plans for full application</li><li>- consultation on proposed models</li></ul>	Throughout
3	Engagement by people with lived experience in the project and consultation on proposed model	May 2022
3	Produce a report on potential models to tackle issues and propose a model for adoption	June 2022
4	Support reporting to funder	July 2022
5	Proposal for steering group including terms of reference for steering group	June 2022
6	Prepare full application to JT Consider other funding opportunities	August 2022 (or such other deadline as is set by JT)

You will report to Karen Bowers of Bristol Law Centre and the Development Grant support group (for guidance and direction) which will include Bristol Law Centre and Bristol Refugee Rights.

### Key deliverables

The grant was made that we endeavour to give to all organisations in the South West providing or planning free immigration advice the opportunity input to developing a plan for immigration advice in the South West.

### Data protection and confidentiality

The successful applicant will be expected to comply with Data Protection and Confidentiality policies of Bristol Law Centre.

## **Evaluator criteria**

The successful candidate/s will have:

- A proven track record of producing independent evaluations of services for vulnerable people;
- A detailed understanding of the UK asylum system, and barriers to justice;
- A detailed understanding of the specific requirements and challenges for delivering specialist immigration advice (e.g. accreditations, legal aid restrictions)
- Experience of accessible and inclusive methods of engagement with all stakeholders
- Significant experience of collaborative and partnership working;
- Experience of designed and delivering participatory and inclusive research methods;
- Able to meet all timeframe requirements listed above in the 'Key deliverables' section;
- Able to work remotely and travel across the South West region to complete the project

## **Budget**

The budget for the consultant is £10,000 inclusive of travel and expenses (this would be exclusive of VAT if applies). Please include a detailed budget with your proposal.

## **Application process**

Applications will be assessed by an internal commissioning panel. The key dates are below. Please submit a written proposal in a word or pdf format no longer than three sides of A4 to [karenb@bristolawcentre.org](mailto:karenb@bristolawcentre.org) detailing:

- Your experience
- Approach to the consultation work
- Detailed delivery plan; including confirmation that key deliverable dates can be met and expected time allowances for each outcome;
- Key risks;
- Budget;
- Two referees. The deadline for submission of proposals is 5pm 7 March 2022

Interviews will be held remotely on 11 and 14 March 2022.

We are looking for someone who can start in early April 2022 and complete the project by September 2022.

If you have any questions or wish to seek clarification on any of the above, please contact [karenb@bristolawcentre.org](mailto:karenb@bristolawcentre.org) (please note Karen's annual leave Feb 23-25<sup>th</sup> inclusive)