## Brief history and background of the organisation

From 2009 all state-funded mainstream schools, including Academies, free schools and maintained nurseries are required to comply with legislation by appointing a qualified teacher with either Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), Qualified Teacher Learning & Skills (QTLS) or Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) in a Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) role. All SENCos are required to undertake training, the National Award for Special Needs Education Coordinator (the NASENCo Award) unless they have three or more years’ experience in the role prior to 2009. The responsibility for ensuring the school’s compliance with the law lies with the school’s governing body.

From 2009 to 2014 the mandatory Award operated through a centralised model of delivery in which 25 providers were accredited by DfE to deliver the training. nasen and senior colleagues from the schools and the specialist sector were part of an Advisory Group supporting the DfE’s development of the NASENCo Award. The Award is a Masters level qualification, designed to meet Level 7 requirements, with a postgraduate certificate (PGCert) of 60 credits. The content of the NASENCo Award is based on a set of nationally agreed Learning Outcomes agreed by DfE. From 2009 to 2014 all NASENCo training was funded by DfE and the names of the accredited providers could be found on the DfE website.

During this time nasen supported the providers of the Award by:

- engaging a Consultant to coordinate communication to and between providers; provide short case studies outlining how providers were delivering the Award; work with a team of colleagues to review the Award; lead the agenda during meetings with providers

- providing administrative support for the Consultant from a nasen employee

- providing space and time for providers to meet face-to-face once a year at the nasen Live event

In 2014 DfE funding for the Award ceased and providers of the Award no longer required validation by DfE, thus opening up the training into an open market. The Award itself remained a mandatory Level 7 PGCert named the National Award of SEN Coordination. However, in an open market nasen and existing NASENCo providers were concerned about the future quality of the Award.

To address the concern about quality, the NASENCo Provider Partnership was formed in 2014 with the support of nasen. nasen continued to provide consultant and administrative support for the new group. The providers (The Provider Group) met twice a year, with a commitment to continue working together to preserve the quality of NASENCo training in a free market.

To achieve this a group of the providers formed a Working Group, appointed by the Provider Group, meeting 4 times a year. They developed a Quality Standards Framework, against which provision made by all providers wishing to join the Provider Partnership should be assessed. The Quality Standard Framework is a self-evaluation document requiring providers to evidence the quality of their course linked to specific outcomes. All previously accredited providers were assessed alongside new providers. All providers are strongly encouraged to become assessors of the Quality Standard which needs to be renewed every 3 years.

Membership of the Provider Group was dependent on achievement of the Quality Standard and from 2014 the growing number of approved “quality” providers have been listed on the nasen website, although accountability for NASENCo training and associated outcomes remains with the DfE.

In March 2018 the Provider Group applied to Companies House to form a Community Interest Company, Leading Learning for Special Educational Needs & Disability Community Interest Company (LLSENDCiC). It is a non-profit organisation charging a small yearly fee to member providers to support costs and future development. The company engages a part-time consultant co-ordinator to lead the group activities and an administrator to support the group. There are currently 39 providers in LLSENDCiC and 3 more awaiting assessment required before joining. LLSENDCiC has a website:

http://www.nasenco.org.uk/who-we-are.php

and the group continues to work with the DfE, nasen and the education sector. LLSENDCiC continues to meet twice yearly in provider meetings and the Working Group (all members invited to join) meets 4 times a year. A Scoping Group respond to bids for research and provide social media for NASENCo and we continue to encourage and support new providers to develop NASENCo courses and join the group after successful quality standard assessment. The commitment of the members to the group remains very strong and support for individual members (current and new) continues to be a strength of the collaborative partnership.

The key aims and objectives of LLSENDCiC are:

* To promote educational opportunities for people with special educational needs and disabilities.
* LLSENDCIC’s activities will seek to achieve the best educational and wider outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families.

This will be achieved by:

* Workforce development
* Leading practice and policy innovation and revision in the area of the workforce and professional development relevant to SEND, to include
* Overseeing and undertaking Quality Standards of accredited National SENCO Award qualifications.

## The purpose of the Provider Partnership development commission

LLSENDCiC continues to expand the numbers of Partners joining the organisation.

With a growing group and the group’s ongoing success in securing additional work with Whole School SEND, it is important that we look forward to consider how we would like LLSENDCiC to develop.

If we are to develop our organisation, including its voice and influence, we need to have a clear understanding of the direction our stakeholders would like to take.

We also need to have confidence in a shared set of principles and aims, both long and short-term, that the organisation will be communicating publicly, to policy makers and stakeholders in the wider SEN field.

## Parameters of the commission

Areas for consideration within this commission:

1. How is LLSENDCiC executing its aims currently
2. How would stakeholders like LLSENDCiC to develop over the next 5 years

Within these areas, the following issues should be addressed:

1. How should we maintain quality standards for the NASENCO learning outcomes framework
2. How do we develop LLSENDCiC’s profile to be a ‘go-to’ organisation for government and related agencies, in order to seek our view on matters pertaining to the role of the SENCO (as set out in current/future legislation, regulation and guidance).
3. How should our role develop in relation to:
	1. Being a key information source for all organisations (and individuals?) on matters related to the NASENCO
	2. quality assurance in SEND co-ordination (links with Ofsted-CQC)
	3. liaison with relevant organisations supporting / run by parents/young people
4. Should we develop our activities in the field of research and publishing and if so, how
5. Should we develop our participation in projects through funded tenders and if so, how
6. What are the key areas for the development of SEND policy that we should be lobbying for?

## Instructions to bidders

Please provide a quote for the above commission, along with your timescales for completing the commission.

In addition to the quote please provide a short overview of you/your company, along with examples of similar work.

If this is a quantity of days please provide day rates, or if it is a minimum annual contract value, please provide an example of how many days of consultancy this would cover.

Tenders should be submitted to nasencogroup@gmail.com by the deadline listed below.

## Timescales

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ITT Release | 17th December 2021 |
| Deadline to submit Initial Tenders | 7th January 2022 |
| Evaluation of Initial Tenders | 10th – 13th January |
| Contract Award | 14th January |
| Final report presented to Directors | By 29th April 2022 |

## Contact details

Please direct any questions relating to this tender to Tristan Middleton at tmiddleton1@glos.ac.uk.

## Budget between £7,500 and £10,000