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Award

Children & Young People Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services

Staffordshire County Council

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-000496

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0587d7 ([view related notices](#))

Published 6 January 2026, 6:52am

Scope

Reference

IA3711

Description

The service will comprise of three main elements:

A. Independent Advocacy as required in statute for Staffordshire Looked After Children (5-25yrs), Children involved in Child Protection Proceedings (5-18yrs), and Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (including Learning Disabilities) 5-25yrs: The overall aim of the Service is to fulfil the authority's statutory requirements with respect to the availability of independent advocates to a high standard and improve outcomes for vulnerable groups. The Provider will do this by ensuring the views of children and young people are well represented and where required, they are provided with appropriate advocacy.

B. Independent Visitors Service for Staffordshire Children in our Care: Will improve outcomes for Staffordshire Children in Care by using trained independent volunteers to

visit, befriend and advise eligible young people. The independent visitors will provide consistency within the lives of young people who may be experiencing a number of changes. They will be a source of support, information, and guidance, encouraging young people to achieve their full potential and access the full range of opportunities that are available to them.

C. Parenting Advocacy Services: The Provider will provide a Parenting Advocacy Service for adults who are aged over 25 years of age and have assessed Special Education Needs and Disability or have had a cognitive/capacity assessment that has deemed that the individual lacks the capacity to advocate for themselves. This Parenting Advocacy Service is to be provided to parent/parents of a Child who is subject to open Child Protection Planning/Early Intervention and Child in Need planning.

There is an additional requirement to fulfil the following services, but these are of a much more limited volume:

D. Independent Person(s) for Secure Accommodation Reviews: Will advocate on behalf of the child, ensuring their wishes and feelings are given due consideration by the local authority. The Independent Person will also be a member of the secure criteria review panel who decides whether the criteria for a young person remaining in secure accommodation is met.

E. Appropriate Adult for Independent Age Assessments for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children & Young People: Will have the skills to support the child or young person in and to challenge social workers if they feel the interview is not being conducted appropriately. They should advocate on behalf of the child or young person, represent their best interests, and ensure that the child or young person's welfare needs are met during the interview process.

Contract 1. IA3711 Children & Young People Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services

Supplier

- ASIST.

Contract value

- £700,000 excluding VAT
- £840,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

6 January 2026

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

6 January 2026

Standstill period

- End: 16 January 2026
- 9 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

2 February 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028
- Possible extension to 31 March 2029

- 3 years

Description of possible extension:

The contract will commence on 1st April 2026 and, subject to earlier termination in accordance with its terms, will continue until midnight on 31st March 2028. At the Authority's entire discretion, the term may be extended by 12 months until the 31st March 2029 on the same terms for such period in accordance with the condition set out in the contract.

Main procurement category

Services

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

At the Authority's entire discretion, the term may be extended by 12 months to the 31st March 2029 on the same terms for such period in accordance with the contract.

CPV classifications

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

Contract locations

- UKG24 - Staffordshire CC
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Information about tenders

- 2 tenders received
- 2 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 2 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 1 supplier awarded contracts
- 1 supplier unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Supplier

ASIST.

- Companies House: 03068125
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVWT-3923-BPZT

Winton House

Stoke On Trent

ST4 2RW

United Kingdom

Email: ruth.plant@asist.co.uk

Website: <http://www.asist.co.uk>

Region: UKG23 - Stoke-on-Trent

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. IA3711 Children & Young People Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services

Contracting authority

Staffordshire County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZDG-2995-QQMD

1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street,

Stafford

ST16 2DH

United Kingdom

Email: commercial.team@staffordshire.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk>

Region: UKG24 - Staffordshire CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government