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Tender

## **Flexible Agreement for the provision of Fostering Agency Placements**

Lancashire County Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-001202

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-030b4b

Published 14 January 2022, 3:12pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Lancashire County Council

Fishergate

Preston

PR18XJ

#### **Contact**

Procurement Care-Health

#### **Email**

[caphprocurement@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:caphprocurement@lancashire.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1772538079

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKD4 - Lancashire

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/business/tenders-and-procurement/tenders/flexible-agreement-for-the-provision-of-fostering-agency-placements/>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/isupplier](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/isupplier)

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Regional or local authority

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Flexible Agreement for the provision of Fostering Agency Placements

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Lancashire County Council (the Council) are leading on the procurement of an open Flexible Agreement for the Provision of Fostering Agency Placements.

Since 2019 Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council, Cumbria County Council and Lancashire County Council (BBLC) have been collaborating as part of a Department of Education funded project to improve the sufficiency of foster care placements across the authorities. By working together, the four Contracting Bodies have developed the Flexible Agreement which this procurement intends to establish, with the aim to influence the behaviour of these agencies in order to prioritise the Children from the four Contracting Bodies within the combined authorities' geographical footprint.

The Flexible Agreement will be a list of approved Independent Foster Care Providers.

It is intended that the Flexible Agreement will remain effect for 9 years, Service Contracts can be awarded as call-off contracts as detailed within the Invitation to Participate (ITP).

This procurement procedure is considered to be subject to the Light Touch Regime under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Providers can apply to join the Flexible Agreement, if Applicants satisfy the required criteria. The Flexible Agreement will be open for new Applications during the initial Application phase. Once the initial Application deadline has passed (see ITP for dates), Providers can apply to join every three years throughout the term. (See the Council's eTendering portal iSupplier and ITP for dates). Following an evaluation process, applicants will receive an outcome notification. Successful Applicants will be required to sign a Flexible Agreement

and will be appointed as a provider.

Lancashire County Council's Flexible Agreement may be used by Contracting Authorities listed below and any successor council as defined in The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transfer of Functions, Property, Rights and Liabilities) Regulations 2008 to the Contracting Authorities.

- Cumbria County Council
- Blackpool Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Council

Please note that Cumbria County Council is currently undergoing a local government reorganisation and Government has announced that Cumbria County Council is to be replaced by two unitary authorities with effect from 01 April 2023. Therefore, Cumbria County Council will be entitled to novate the Flexible Agreement for the provision of Fostering Agency Placements to any successor council.

The Flexible Agreement will be split into the following Lots:

- Lot 1 Mainstream Foster Care
- Lot 2 Enhanced Foster Care
- Lot 3 Step Down Foster Care

Applicants must be successful in Lot 1 to be eligible for Lot 2 and/or Lot 3.

Estimated total value up to £375,000,000 - £415,000,000.

See invitation to participate for full requirements, particularly in regard to requirements concerning: insurance, financial ratios, consortia requirements, mandatory and discretionary exclusion criteria, references, past performance/experience, registered households and quality and price criteria.

### How to Apply

To participate and join the Flexible Agreement, please read all documents listed below. Applicants must complete all the required documents (as stated in the ITP) and must be returned via the iSupplier portal: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/isupplier](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/isupplier) under RFQ 15314114.

All aspects (documents/attachments/responses) of the application can and must be submitted via the iSupplier portal. The Council will not accept email or hard copy/paper

applications in relation to this process and you must submit your application electronically via the iSupplier portal.

All instructions on how to apply to join the Flexible Agreement, evaluation criteria terms and conditions and documents to be returned can be found on following webpage:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/business/tenders-and-procurement/tenders/flexible-agreement-for-the-provision-of-fostering-agency-placements/>

### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £415,000,000

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

Applicants must be successful in Lot 1 to be eligible for Lot 2 and/or Lot 3.

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 1 Standard Foster Care.

Lot No

1

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKC2 - Northumberland and Tyne and Wear

- UKD1 - Cumbria
- UKD4 - Lancashire
- UKE2 - North Yorkshire
- UKM9 - Southern Scotland

Main site or place of performance

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool , Cumbria and Lancashire

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Lot 1 Standard Foster Care. The provision of foster care placements for children and young people aged 0-4, 5-10, 11-15, 16+ and Parent and Child placements

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

108

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 2 Enhanced Foster Care.

Lot No

2

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKC2 - Northumberland and Tyne and Wear
- UKD1 - Cumbria
- UKD4 - Lancashire
- UKE2 - North Yorkshire
- UKM9 - Southern Scotland

Main site or place of performance

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool , Cumbria and Lancashire

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Lot 2 Enhanced Foster Care. The provision of foster care placements and support services for children and young people with enhanced needs

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

108

This contract is subject to renewal

No

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 3 Step Down into Foster Care

Lot No

3

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKC2 - Northumberland and Tyne and Wear
- UKD1 - Cumbria
- UKD4 - Lancashire
- UKE2 - North Yorkshire
- UKM9 - Southern Scotland

Main site or place of performance



Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool , Cumbria and Lancashire

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Lot 3 Step Down into Foster Care. The provision of foster care placements and support services for children and young people who are placed within Residential Care or on a trajectory to be placed within Residential Care.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

108

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers**

List and brief description of conditions

The Council requires Applicants to be registered with Ofsted or Care Inspectorate for regulated activity. Nominated locations put forward must not be rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted or 'weak' or 'unsatisfactory' by Care Inspectorate.

See invitation to participate for full requirements, particularly in regard to requirements concerning: insurance, financial ratios, consortia requirements, mandatory and discretionary exclusion criteria, references, past performance/experience, registered households, and quality and price criteria.

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2020/S 129-318142](#)

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

4 May 2031

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

#### **IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

5 May 2031

Local time

10:00am

Information about authorised persons and opening procedure

The Flexible Agreement is now open for Applications and is anticipated to be open until the initial Application Return Deadline (See the Council's eTendering portal iSupplier portal and ITP for date).

Once the initial Application Return deadline has passed (see ITP for dates), Applicants can apply to join every three years throughout the term, dates of deadlines and evaluation will be published on the iSupplier portal.

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.3) Additional information**

Requests to participate (Applications) are required and must be submitted via the Authority's tendering system, only. no hard copy or email applications will be accepted:  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk/isupplier](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/isupplier)

Use of this system does not require high specification IT equipment or connections, nor high level personal IT skills/capabilities. Access to the system/software and advice is free of charge.

Registration is necessary in order to submit requests to participate in the Flexible Agreement.

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Royal Courts of Justice - The High Court

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.find-court-tribunal.service.gov.uk/courts/royal-courts-of-justice>