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Contract

Early Learning, Childcare and Brokerage Services

Dumfries and Galloway Council

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-002004

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03ad59

Published 9 January 2026, 4:03pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Procurement Team, Carruthers House

Dumfries

DG1 2HP

Email

Procurement.PeopleandProjects@dumgal.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM92 - Dumfries & Galloway

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00219

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Early Learning, Childcare and Brokerage Services

Reference number

DGCP-0244

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85312110 - Child daycare services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Council has a statutory duty to make pre-school education available for eligible children under the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and Statutory Guidance set out the increased entitlement to 1140 hours for eligible children which became a statutory duty from August 2021.

The Funding Follows the Child approach places choice in parents' and carers' hands enabling them to access their child's funded entitlement with a provider that best suits their needs.

All providers who apply and meet the expected standard, legislation and the Council's procedural requirements as set out in the Invitation to Tender and accept the rates and contract terms set out by the Council shall be accepted to deliver funded provision through the Flexible Framework enabling them to register children in 2025 to commence Brokerage placements from Q2 2025 and funded Early Learning and Childcare placements from August 2025.

This is the July 2025 re-opening of the framework.

If you have already been awarded a place on this framework, you do not need to re-apply.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £48,686,143

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

ELC - Private and Third Sector Settings (excluding Childminders)

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85312110 - Child daycare services
- 80110000 - Pre-school education services
- 80100000 - Primary education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM92 - Dumfries & Galloway

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Council has a statutory duty to make pre-school education available for eligible children under the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and Statutory Guidance set out the increased entitlement to 1140 hours for eligible children which became a statutory duty from August 2021.

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II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 0

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

ELC - Childminders

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85312110 - Child daycare services
- 80100000 - Primary education services
- 80110000 - Pre-school education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM92 - Dumfries & Galloway

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Council has a statutory duty to make pre-school education available for eligible children under the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and Statutory Guidance set out the increased entitlement to 1140 hours for eligible children which became a statutory duty from August 2021.

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Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 0

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 3- Childcare Brokerage

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85312110 - Child daycare services
- 80100000 - Primary education services
- 80110000 - Pre-school education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM92 - Dumfries & Galloway

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Council has a statutory duty to make pre-school education available for eligible children under the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and Statutory Guidance set out the increased entitlement to 1140 hours for eligible children which became a statutory duty from August 2021.

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Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 0

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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: [2025/S 000-036287](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

1

Title

ELC - Private and Third Sector Settings (excluding Childminders)

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

4 December 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

First Steps Nursery

Heathhall

Dumfries

DG1 3NT

Telephone

+44 1387255345

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKM92 - Dumfries & Galloway

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £48,686,143

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

2

Title

ELC - Childminders

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

19 September 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Midget Gems Chilminder

Westdale, Springholm

Castle Douglas

DG7 3LP

Telephone

+44 7855895331

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKM92 - Dumfries & Galloway

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £48,686,143

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

3

Title

Lot 3- Childcare Brokerage

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

4 December 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

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The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £48,686,143

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(SC Ref:820226)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Dumfries Sheriff Court

Buckleuch Street

Dumfries

Country

United Kingdom