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Contract

DLEARN-Childcare Early Adopter Communities – Process, Impact & Spend Evaluation

Scottish Government

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-004194

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b184

Published 7 February 2025, 2:28pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Government

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

EH6 6QQ

Email

jennifer.brice@gov.scot

Telephone

+44 1312444000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM - Scotland

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10482

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

DLEARN-Childcare Early Adopter Communities – Process, Impact & Spend Evaluation

Reference number

722380

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79315000 - Social research services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Scottish Government, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, has awarded a contract for a process, impact and spend evaluation of six 'early adopter communities' who are testing out local, place-based approaches to childcare from the very early years up to the end of primary school.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

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

Value excluding VAT: £244,959

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79311410 - Economic impact assessment

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Scottish Government has committed to building a system of school age childcare that provides care before and after school, all year round, to support parents and carers – particularly on low incomes – to access secure and stable employment.

The School Age Childcare Transformational Change Programme was established to deliver this commitment. The Programme is taking a phased approach to policy design in order to test and refine what an effective system will look like in different communities, and to adapt and scale different approaches. This includes work within six ‘early adopter communities’ (EACs) to understand how to co-design local systems of childcare which will meet the needs of families living within those communities. This work is targeted at families most at risk of living in poverty, as set out in Best Start, Bright Futures, the Scottish Government’s tackling child poverty delivery plan.

In the 2023 Programme for Government, Scottish Government also made a commitment to expand the EACs to include families with younger children for the first time. This will mainly focus on children up to age three, given that all three- and four-year-olds (and eligible two-year-olds) are already entitled to 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare. In the coming year the EACs will conduct engagement work with families to better understand their needs in relation to childcare for younger children. Some limited delivery will also begin for families in selected communities where this engagement work has already taken place.

The Scottish Government, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, wishes to commission a process, impact and spend evaluation of the EACs. The contractor will be required to build on a first phase of evaluation of the EACs (which involved development of a theory of change and a monitoring and evaluation framework, an early process evaluation, and an evaluability assessment) and work with the Scottish Government to meet the aims outlined below.

This next phase of work is to provide robust findings on the impact of these community-based childcare projects on children and families, how these changes are enabled, and how the resources put into the EACs have been used. These findings will in turn inform both continuous improvement for local partners and wider local and national childcare policy.

The aims of this evaluation are:

1. Scope and refine a detailed evaluation approach, building on a preliminary evaluability assessment.
2. Work with leads and partners in the EACs to refine and improve monitoring and evaluation data, as required

3. Conduct a process evaluation across all 6 EACs
4. Conduct an early impact evaluation across all 6 EACs
5. Conduct a spend evaluation across all 6 EACs.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Understanding the Requirement / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Research, Design and Methodology / Weighting: 40

Quality criterion - Name: Staff, Skills and Task Allocation / Weighting: 20

Quality criterion - Name: Project Management and Risk Assessment / Weighting: 15

Quality criterion - Name: Ethical Sensitivities / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Fair Work First / Weighting: 5

Quality criterion - Name: Climate Emergency / Weighting: 0

Quality criterion - Name: Community Benefits / Weighting: 0

Quality criterion - Name: Business Continuity And Disaster Recovery (BCDR) / Weighting: 0

Price - Weighting: 30

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: [2024/S 000-034726](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

CASE/722380

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

3 February 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 2

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: 2

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 2

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Ipsos (market research) Ltd

4 Wemyss Place

Edinburgh

EH3 6DH

Telephone

+44 7583001246

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £244,959

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(SC Ref:790087)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Edinburgh Sheriff Court

27 Chambers Street

Edinburgh

EH1 1LB

Country

United Kingdom