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Planning

Sensory Checks in Special Educational Settings for Sight tests and Hearing checks

NHS BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET, SWINDON AND WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board

NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-008345

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0612b3

Published 30 January 2026, 10:41am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET, SWINDON AND WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

Jenner House, Unit E3, Langley Park, Avon Way

Chippenham

SN151GG

Contact

Caitlin Dyke

Email

caitlin.dyke@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK - South West (England)

NHS Organisation Data Service

QOX

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Buyer's address

www.bsw.icb.nhs.uk

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board

Wynford House, Luton Way

Yeovil

BA22 8HR

Email

caitlin.dyke@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK14 - Swindon

NHS Organisation Data Service

QSL

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Buyer's address

<https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/>

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board

Vespasian House, Barrack Road

Dorchester

DT1 1TS

Email

caitlin.dyke@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK25 - Dorset

NHS Organisation Data Service

QVV

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Buyer's address

<https://nhsdorset.nhs.uk/>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract involves joint procurement

I.3) Communication

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

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Sensory Checks in Special Educational Settings for Sight tests and Hearing checks

Reference number

WA18322 / C391213

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Boards (BSW ICB) acting as lead commissioner on behalf of NHS Somerset ICB and Dorset ICB are seeking market engagement with suitably qualified and experienced providers to understand the level of interest in this service and understand the opportunities and barriers in the provision of care within each locality, to assist Commissioners in developing their commissioning approach, lotting structure and service specifications for their Sensory Checks service in Special Educational Settings (SES) for sight testing and hearing checks across the BSW, Somerset and Dorset localities.

The commissioners invite expressions of interest from providers who have the capability and capacity to deliver Sensory Checks in Special Educational Settings, in line with the specified requirements.

Providers wishing to take part in the market engagement must express an interest within the e-procurement system where providers will be given access to a draft specifications and registration questionnaire.

Completed registration questionnaires (available via the portal) should be submitted no later than 4pm Friday, 20th February 2026 via the Microsoft Forms link within the e-procurement system in order to receive an invite to the event.

The market engagement event will be held virtually on Thursday 26th February 2026 from 2pm until 4pm via Microsoft Teams. Further details will be provided for those who express

an interest in due course.

Interested providers will be able to view this notice via the 'Live Opportunities' list on the e-procurement system, Atamis, available on the following link: <https://health-family.force.com/s>Welcome>

This exercise is being carried out by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the Commissioners.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85121240 - ENT or audiologist services
- 85121281 - Ophthalmologist services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK - South West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Boards (BSW ICB) acting as lead commissioner on behalf of NHS Somerset ICB and Dorset ICB are seeking market engagement with suitably qualified and experienced providers to understand the level of interest in this service and understand the opportunities and barriers in the provision of care within each locality, to assist Commissioners in developing their commissioning approach, lotting structure and service specifications for their Sensory Checks service in Special Educational Settings (SES) for sight testing and hearing checks across BSW, Somerset and Dorset localities.

The services must be person centred with reasonable adjustments and create a supportive needs-led environment to meet the needs of individual children and young people.

The sight testing service will provide in-school sight testing and dispensing to all children and young people in residential and day SES and comprises of:

- Annual sight tests, unless a more frequent interval is clinically indicated.

- Offering corrective lenses where required.
- Manage prompt and appropriate onward referral into appropriate established care pathways if further checks or treatment are required.
- Providing access for any parents/carers/guardians to attend the sight test and selection of frames if they wish to do so.
- Provide an eye health outcome and vision report.
- Working closely with SES staff to ensure the service flexibly aligns with school capacity and schedules.
- Engage with:
 - o the SES school staff
 - o parents/carers/guardians
 - o children and young people attending the SES
 - o Commissioners
 - o the local eye health network (where they exist)
 - o local optical committees

The hearing checks service will provide in-school ear checks for all children and young people attending special residential schools and colleges and comprises of:

- A hearing check twice during their school career with at least two years between checks (max. 3).
- Early identification of potential ear-related problems (hearing loss, ear infections, occluding wax).
- Effective monitoring of the overall health of their ears, including checking for the presence of any infections, blockages, or abnormalities
- Timely intervention and appropriate management to ensure optimal ear health and support the children and young people's overall well-being and adjustments.
- Prompt and appropriate onward referral of potential issues ensuring timely initiation of tests and treatment.

- Provide appropriate information and advice to parents/carers/legal guardians, schools and colleges.
- Provide close collaboration with school staff, parents, and carers to understand the individual child's specific needs.

Further details can be found in the draft specifications via the expression of interest route.

The anticipated annual contract value of the services across all localities is £536,000.

The Commissioners invite expressions of interest from providers who have the capability and capacity to deliver Sensory Checks in Special Educational Settings, in line with the specified requirements.

Providers wishing to take part in the market engagement must express an interest within the e-procurement system where providers will be given access to a draft specifications and registration questionnaire.

Completed registration questionnaires (available via the portal) should be submitted no later than 4pm Friday, 20th February 2026 via the Microsoft Forms link within the e-procurement system in order to receive an invite to the event.

The market engagement event will be held virtually on Thursday 26th February 2026 from 2pm until 4pm via Microsoft Teams. Further details will be provided to those who express an interest in due course.

Interested providers will be able to view this notice via the 'Live Opportunities' list on the e-procurement system, Atamis, available on the following link: <https://health-family.force.com/s>Welcome>

This exercise is being carried out by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the Commissioners.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

18 March 2026

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This notice is an information gathering exercise rather than a call for competition in its own right, and therefore publication or response does not commit the Authority or respondents to a future procurement, nor provide any process exemptions or preferential treatment to any parties expressing an interest. The Authority will not be liable for costs incurred by any interested party in participating in this exercise.

Interested providers will be able to view this opportunity via the live opportunities list on the 'Health Family' e-procurement system, Atamis. Click on 'View our Live Opportunities' from the home page, available on the following link: <https://health-family.force.com/s>Welcome>.

Once you have found the opportunity (via the search function, using the title or reference number), to gain full access to the relevant information and market engagement questionnaire, you will need to click on 'Register interest' - this will take you to the log-in page.

If you are not already registered on the system, you will need to do so before gaining full access to the documentation and to be able to submit your expression of interest and market engagement questionnaire using the Microsoft Forms link within Atamis.

The intention is to award a contract using the competitive process.

This is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) prior information notice. The contract is subject to the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and The Procurement Act 2023 do not apply.