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Tender

NAC/5198 - Early Learning and Childcare Funded Providers

North Ayrshire Council

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-010118

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

Published 19 March 2025, 12:25pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

North Ayrshire Council

Cunninghame House, Friars Croft

Irvine

KA12 8EE

Email

lynseybennett@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM93 - East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00337

I.3) Communication

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

<https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/>

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

NAC/5198 - Early Learning and Childcare Funded Providers

Reference number

NAC/5198

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85312110 - Child daycare services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

North Ayrshire Council invites Providers to apply for this Flexible Framework Agreement to be eligible to deliver Early Learning and Childcare Funded Hours within North Ayrshire.

The current framework (NAC/5011) expires on 31st July 2025 and as such, NAC require a new Flexible Framework Agreement to commence from 1st August 2025. The proposed Framework will be for a period of 5 years, expiring 31st July 2030.

The terms and conditions of the Flexible Framework Agreement will be the Early Learning and Childcare Model Terms and Conditions.

All providers who apply and meet the minimum conditions of the Flexible Framework agreement (i.e. the National Standards & relevant legislation as noted in the attached documentation) and who accept the rates/framework terms and conditions shall be accepted to deliver funded provision through the Flexible Framework Agreement.

Providers can apply for the Flexible Framework Agreement at any time, however to be eligible to start Funded Placements by 1st August 2025 Providers must submit their application by 8th May 2025.

Applications received after 8th May 2025 will not be reviewed until August 2025 at the earliest.

Please review the attached documentation for further information. A Question & Answer

facility is available for Providers to submit enquiries related to the application process. All questions must be submitted before 1st May 2025 to ensure a response is received prior to the submission deadline.

NAC will be holding drop-in sessions to support Providers with their applications. Members of the Early Years and Corporate Procurement Teams will be available to answer any queries you may have in relation to your application. These sessions will be held at Marress House Early Years Centre, Friars Croft, Irvine, KA11 8EE on Wednesday 26th March 2025 and Wednesday 30th April 2025. Providers are invited to drop-in at any time between 2-8pm on these dates to discuss their applications.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 1 - Early Learning and Childcare Services (Including Private, Voluntary and Third Sector Settings)

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80110000 - Pre-school education services
- 85312110 - Child daycare services
- 85312100 - Daycare services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM93 - East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland

Main site or place of performance

North Ayrshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Lot 1 of this Flexible Framework Agreement sets out the minimum standards required from Early Learning and Childcare (Nursery) Services (including Private, Voluntary and Third Sector settings).

To apply for this Lot Providers must:

- 1) Read and review all documentation attached to this notice;
- 2) Submit a completed Part A (Information and Requirements) Form; and
- 3) Provide all required evidence listed in Part B (Provider Evidence Requirements) for Lot 1

Where initial evidence submitted does not provide sufficient assurance, additional evidence may be sought by the Council. Potential additional evidence that may be sought is outlined in the attached documents.

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 2 - Childminding Services

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80110000 - Pre-school education services
- 85312110 - Child daycare services
- 85312100 - Daycare services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM93 - East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland

Main site or place of performance

North Ayrshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Lot 2 of this Flexible Framework Agreement sets out the minimum standards required from Childminding Services.

To apply for this Lot Providers must:

- 1) Read and review all documentation attached to this notice;
- 2) Submit a completed Part A (Information and Requirements) Form; and
- 3) Provide all required evidence listed in Part B (Provider Evidence Requirements) for Lot 2

Where initial evidence submitted does not provide sufficient assurance, additional evidence may be sought by the Council. Potential additional evidence that may be sought is outlined in the attached documents.

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 III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.4) Objective rules and criteria for participation

List and brief description of rules and criteria

Bidders may be excluded if they are in any of the situations referred to in regulation 58 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.3) Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Form of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

In the case of framework agreements, provide justification for any duration exceeding 4 years:

Flexible Framework Agreement established under the Light Touch Regime.

IV.1.10) Identification of the national rules applicable to the procedure

Information about national procedures is available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/Procurement>

IV.2) Administrative information

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

Date

8 May 2025

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=792536.

The buyer has indicated that it will accept electronic responses to this notice via the Postbox facility. A user guide is available at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/sitehelp/help_guides.aspx.

Suppliers are advised to allow adequate time for uploading documents and to dispatch the electronic response well in advance of the closing time to avoid any last minute problems.

The Contracting Authority does not intend to include a sub-contract clause as part of community benefits (as per Section 25 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014) in this contract for the following reason:

The framework has been divided into lots to support SMEs to gain access to opportunities through the flexible framework. The nature of the services delivered are unlikely to be delivered through sub-contractors and therefore a sub-contract clause is not suitable for this type of services framework.

The Contracting Authority does not intend to include any community benefit requirements in this contract for the following reason:

The Flexible Framework does not provide a guarantee of work, therefore community benefits are not being made mandatory within the tender.

(SC Ref:792536)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Kilmarnock Sheriff Court

Sheriff Court House, St Marnock Street

Kilmarnock

KA1 1ED

Telephone

+44 1563550024

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/>