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Tender

Adoption and Kinship Specialist Support Services

Essex County Council
Suffolk County Council

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-010627

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05545d ([view related notices](#))

Published 5 February 2026, 3:58pm

Scope

Reference

F009PA

Description

Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council is seeking to procure a new framework for the provision of Adoption and Kinship Specialist Support Services. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide these services as outlined in the Children and Families Act 2014, and in the Kinship Care Statutory Guidance published in October 2024. The framework will meet this duty by providing adoptive and kinship families access to therapeutic services, assessment services and training to assist both children and adults to deal with the long-term effects of abuse, and trauma across Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council. The framework will be for an initial period of three (3) years and there will be an option to extend the framework for up to one year.

The framework will have the following 3 Lots to support adoptive and kinship order families:

- Lot 1 Training - To enable parent/carers to develop their skills to support their children effectively meet their full potential.
- Lot 2 Therapeutic Intervention- To address emotional and behavioural challenges for children and their families stemming from negative early life experiences.
- Lot 3 Specialist Assessments- To assess and identify a child's support needs that will enable the and subsequent planning to meet those needs.

The contracting authority is Essex County Council and any Successor Body meaning one or more entities which assumes any of the Council's functions (as applicable) as a result of Local Government Reform (LGR). Such successor body or bodies may be, without limitation, a local authority, a combined authority, a combined county authority, a strategic authority or any other status determined pursuant to the Devolution and LGR Legislation.

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £4,800,000 excluding VAT
- £5,760,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029
- Possible extension to 30 June 2030
- 4 years

Description of possible extension:

The Authority may, at its sole discretion, extend the Term by a further period or periods of up to twelve (12) months (the "Extension Periods")

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

Contract locations

- UKH14 - Suffolk
 - UKH3 - Essex
-

Lot 1. Training

Description

Lot 1 - Training - to enable parent/carers to develop the skills to support their child(ren) effectively to meet their full potential. Providers will be ranked based on price and quality as indicated in the procurement documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £768,000 excluding VAT
- £921,600 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 2. Therapeutic Intervention

Description

Lot 2 - Therapeutic Intervention - to address emotional and behavioural challenges for children and their families stemming from negative early life experiences. Providers will be ranked based on price and quality as indicated in the procurement documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £3,696,000 excluding VAT
- £4,435,200 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 3. Specialist Assessments

Description

Lot 3 - Specialist Assessments To identify the child's support needs and requirements. Providers will be ranked based on price and quality as indicated in the procurement documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £336,000 excluding VAT
- £403,200 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Framework

Maximum number of suppliers

Unlimited

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

0%

Framework operation description

When a service is required, a competitive call-off process will be undertaken within the relevant lot or sub-lot to identify the provider best suited to meet the family's specific needs.

This Framework is not intended to operate as an Open Framework as defined in s49 of the Procurement Act 2023. However, the Council may elect to re-open the Framework to new entrants as detailed in the tender documentation where, in the Council's reasonable opinion additional capacity is required to meet the local demand.

Award method when using the framework

With competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

Suffolk County Council - Any successor to this organisation

Contracting authority location restrictions

- UKH14 - Suffolk
- UKH3 - Essex

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Training

Lot 2. Therapeutic Intervention

Lot 3. Specialist Assessments

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Tender submission deadline

9 March 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://procontract.due-north.com/>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

30 April 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Quality	As detailed in the tender documents.	Quality	100%

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authorities

Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Email: isabelle.clarke@essex.gov.uk

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Suffolk County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHVH-1657-HHMH

Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road

Ipswich

IP1 2BX

United Kingdom

Email: Procurementbusinesssupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Region: UKH14 - Suffolk

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Contact organisation

Contact Essex County Council for any enquiries.