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Planning

Adoption & Fostering Medical Advice Service

Milton Keynes City Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-011614

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-064bcd

Published 10 February 2026, 8:28am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Milton Keynes City Council

Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East

Milton Keynes

MK93EJ

Contact

Procurement Team

Email

procurement@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ12 - Milton Keynes

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

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

Adoption & Fostering Medical Advice Service

Reference number

2025-234

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85141220 - Advisory services provided by nurses

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

INTENDED APPROACH NOTICE for NHS Health Check service - Provider Selection Regime - Most Suitable Provider Notice.

This is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) intended approach notice. The awarding of this 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 do not apply to this award.

In accordance with Regulation 10 of The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023, Milton Keynes City Council is seeking to award a contract under the Most Suitable Provider process as the Authority is able to identify the most suitable provider without running a competitive exercise, for the provision of Adoption & Fostering Medical Advice Service.

Milton Keynes City Council intends to award a single contract to the most suitable provider. This notice will be published for a minimum of 14 days in accordance with the requirements of the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulation 2023.

This is to enable providers to approach the Council and express their interest in being considered as the 'most suitable provider'.

Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) is a partner in the Adoption Connects Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), alongside Central Bedfordshire Council. As a statutory Adoption Agency and Fostering Service, the Council is required under the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005 and the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 to appoint a registered medical practitioner to act as its Medical Adviser in respect of adoption and fostering. This role supports the health-related decision-making processes for children and prospective carers involved in adoption and fostering.

The purpose of this service is to provide and ensure the availability of timely, high-quality medical advice for all MKCC Adoption and Fostering decisions. The service will support statutory compliance and best practice in health assessments, enabling panels and decision-makers to make informed recommendations, and contribute adequately to safeguarding and permanence planning. It will also ensure all health information is interpreted accurately and shared with prospective adopters and foster carers, empowering them to make informed decisions about the care of children.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £176,146

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85141000 - Services provided by medical personnel

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ12 - Milton Keynes

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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The Medical Adviser must be a registered medical practitioner and will provide clinical expertise and ensure compliance with statutory requirements. This will include liaising with Social Workers, Health Professionals, and Panel Members, attending training and contributing to court reports where required.

Additionally, the Medical Adviser must:

- Have undergone higher professional training in paediatrics. Alternatively, by virtue of experience and practice, have demonstrated appropriate competencies as advised by the ICB's Designated Doctor for looked after children.
- Have relevant experience in the clinical management of children including those with neuro-developmental, emotional, behavioural and attachment difficulties, child protection, and adult health issues pertinent to parenting.
- Have the ability to achieve other competencies as appropriate to the role of Medical Adviser.
- Have experience of, and the ability to work in, a multi-agency setting.
- Have good verbal and written communication skills, with an ability to express complex medical issues in lay terms.

Administrative support will be provided to manage referrals, schedule meetings, and maintain accurate records. The Provider will be required to ensure that all staff involved in the service are appropriately trained and qualified, and the service has in place robust governance arrangements.

The Medical Adviser will be consulted where the Council:

- arranges for the child to be examined and obtains a report or reports on the child's health (AAR 15 and AAR Part 2 of Schedule 1);
- arranges for health information to be obtained about the child's parents and siblings (AAR 16 and AAR Part 4 of Schedule 1);

- prepares the child's permanence report which is to include a comprehensive summary written by the medical adviser on the child's health (AAR 17);
- obtains a report about the health of the prospective adopter (AAR 26 and Part 2 of Schedule 4);
- prepares the prospective adopter's report for the adoption panel, which is to include a comprehensive summary written by the medical adviser on the prospective adopter's health (AAR 30);
- prepares the adoption placement report for an adoption panel (AAR 31);
- prepares a report to the court where there has been an application for a placement order, as the agency is required to provide a summary written by the medical adviser on the health of the child;
- reviews the child's case, including reviewing the arrangements for assessing and meeting the child's health care needs (AAR 36);
- prepares a report to the court where there has been an application for an adoption order or an order under section 84 of the Act, as the agency is required to provide summaries written by the medical adviser on the health of the child and the prospective adopter.

The Medical Adviser may also be required, on an ad hoc basis, to sign off initial and review health assessments, complete BAAF Forms, provide advice on adequacy of health information, and recommend additional specialist opinions.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

25 February 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 is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) intended approach notice. The awarding of this 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 do not apply to this award.'

Award decision makers are;

Deputy Head People's Commissioning

Director of Children's Services

Head of Corporate Parenting

The intention is to award a contract using the most suitable provider process.

This will be published for a minimum of 14 days (Until 24/02/2026) in accordance with the requirements of the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulation 2023.

This is to enable providers to approach the Authority and express their interest in being considered as the 'most suitable provider'. Expressions should be sent to procurement@milton-keynes.gov.uk with the reference 2025-234 detailed in the subject.