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Planning

What Works Centre for Children and Families

Department for Education

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-012514

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04fbf4

Published 2 April 2025, 1:29pm

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Scope

Description

The services relate to a potential procurement of a service provider for the continuation of the What Works Centre for Children and Families, subject to ministerial agreement.

Under the Opportunity Mission, within the Family Security pillar, reforming children's social care is critical to keeping children safe. For expected reforms to the children's social care system to be successful they must be based on high quality evidence of interventions that work. Subject to Ministerial agreement, we would want this service to generate and champion actionable evidence that improves services to support family relationships. This should include:

Becoming a What Works Network member, operating independently and setting a strategy alongside DfE

Having a team of experts in conducting high quality evaluations, translating and disseminating evidence .

Establishing relationships with policy makers and local leaders to establish and support delivery of interventions that work based on high quality evidence.

We are seeking views on our high level service requirements and strategy which would deliver this objective. We would at a minimum expect the Cabinet Office's requirement of What Works Centre membership to be met:

collating existing evidence on the effectiveness of programmes and practices

producing high-quality synthesis reports and systematic reviews in areas where they do not currently exist

assessing the effectiveness of policies and practices against an agreed set of outcomes

filling gaps in the evidence base by commissioning new trials and evaluations

sharing findings in an accessible way

supporting practitioners, commissioners and policymakers to use these findings to inform their decisions

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2033
- 6 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73110000 - Research services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services

- 73300000 - Design and execution of research and development
- 85311300 - Welfare services for children and young people
- 79419000 - Evaluation consultancy services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

30 April 2025

Engagement process description

The purpose of this PIN is to initiate market consultation on a potential procurement for the continuation of the What Works Centre for Children and Families. It is not being used as a call for competition. The PIN is intended to:

1. Raise awareness with the market of a potential future procurement process and to enable time for organisations to begin early discussions with the Department and each other as to how they may be able to deliver any future contract.
2. Inform the market that the Department will be undertaking market consultation activity during the coming weeks, to gather information about the supply market; to explore potential delivery models and associated benefits of those models; and to inform its understanding of the risks and issues relevant to managing transition to, and mobilisation of, any new service arrangements.

Market engagement will consist of a virtual event via MS Teams with the opportunity to also attend a commercial in confidence, 1:1 virtual meeting between interested suppliers and the Department. The 1:1 session will give an opportunity to discuss any clarifications

you may need and highlight what aspects of the procurement may be most attractive to you.

We aim for the MS Teams event to take place Wednesday, 16 April, 12:00-14:00. If you are interested, please contact james.drew@education.gov.uk to arrange an invitation to the event, advising if you would also like a follow up 1:1 session. We intend to share the outcomes from the main session with all potential suppliers following the conclusion of the consultation period.

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Contracting authority

Department for Education

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

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Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government