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Tender

## **IA2880 Children & Young People's Advocacy Independent Visitors, Mediation & Advice Service**

Staffordshire County Council  
Herefordshire Council  
Shropshire Council  
Stoke-On-Trent City Council  
Telford & Wrekin Borough Council  
Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent ICB

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-024219

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-034d9f

Published 31 August 2022, 7:19am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Staffordshire County Council  
  
2 Staffordshire Place Tipping Street  
  
Stafford  
  
ST16 2DH

#### **Contact**

Caroline Clarke

#### **Email**

[caroline.clarke@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.clarke@staffordshire.gov.uk)

**Telephone**

+44 1785854653

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKG - West Midlands (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Homepage](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Homepage)

Buyer's address

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/business/procurement/homepage](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/business/procurement/homepage)

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Herefordshire Council

Herefordshire

**Contact**

Sandra Griffiths

**Email**

[sgriffiths3@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sgriffiths3@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKG - West Midlands (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Shropshire Council

Shrewsbury

**Contact**

Karen Scardifield.

**Email**

[Karen.Scardifield@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Scardifield@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKG - West Midlands (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://shropshire.gov.uk>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Stoke-On-Trent City Council

Stoke

## **Contact**

Kate Bailey

## **Email**

[Kate.Bailey@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Bailey@stoke.gov.uk)

## **Country**

United Kingdom

## **Region code**

UKG - West Midlands (England)

## **Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

## **I.1) Name and addresses**

Telford & Wrekin Borough Council

Telford

## **Contact**

Kelly Burgess

## **Email**

[Kelly.Burgess@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.Burgess@telford.gov.uk)

## **Country**

United Kingdom

## **Region code**

UKG - West Midlands (England)

## **Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

## **I.1) Name and addresses**

Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent ICB

Stafford

## **Contact**

Sarah Evans

## **Email**

[Sarah.Evans@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk](mailto:Sarah.Evans@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk)

## **Country**

United Kingdom

## **Region code**

UKG2 - Shropshire and Staffordshire

## **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://staffsstoke.icb.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

[www.supplierlive.proactisp2p.com/Account/Login](http://www.supplierlive.proactisp2p.com/Account/Login)

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

[www.supplierlive.proactisp2p.com/Account/Login](http://www.supplierlive.proactisp2p.com/Account/Login)

#### **I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Regional or local authority

#### **I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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### **Section II: Object**

#### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

##### **II.1.1) Title**

IA2880 Children & Young People's Advocacy Independent Visitors, Mediation & Advice Service

Reference number

DN1395

##### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

##### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

##### **II.1.4) Short description**

Staffordshire County Council are looking to procure services for the Provision of Children & Young Peoples (CYP) Advocacy Independent Visitors, Mediation & Advice Service. The

service is broken down into 3 lots with staggered start dates as follows

Lot 1: Children and Young People's Advocacy and Children in Care Independent Visitor Service

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2026 (extension 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028).

Lot 2: Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service for Children and Young People aged 0 to 25 years with SEND and their Parents/ Carers .

1 July 2023 – 31 March 2026 (extension 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028).

Lot 3 Advice and Mediation for Fostering Families

1 October 2023 – 31 March 2026 (extension 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028).

### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £1,391,000

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 1: Children & Young People's Advocacy & Children in Care Independent Visitor Service

Lot No

1

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 85311300 - Welfare services for children and young people

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKG24 - Staffordshire CC

## **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Staffordshire County Council are seeking the provision of a Children & Young Person's Advocacy Service, a Statutory Independent Visitors Service for Children in Care, Independent Persons for Secure Accommodation Reviews, Appropriate Adults for Independent Age Assessments of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children & Young People and a Parenting Advocacy Service.

The Council's overall aim of the Service is to fulfil their statutory requirements with respect to the availability of independent Advocates to a high standard and improve outcomes for Children & Young People in receipt of the Service. The Provider will do this by ensuring the views of Children & Young People are well represented and where required, they are provided with appropriate Advocacy.

The Service will also be required to:

Deliver an Independent Visitor programme for Children in Care and Young People.

Arrange for an Independent Person to attend Secure Accommodation Reviews as and when required.

Arrange for an Appropriate Adults for Independent Age Assessments of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children & Young People.

Deliver a Parenting Advocacy Service for adults who are aged over 25 years of age and have assessed Special Education Needs and Disability or have had a cognitive/capacity assessment that has deemed that the individual lacks the capacity to Advocate for themselves.

## **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

## **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £812,000

## **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**



Start date

1 April 2023

End date

31 March 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial contract is for 36 months until 31 March 2026 plus an extension to extend for up to 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028.

In the event the Agreement is extended the extension shall be on the same Terms and Conditions as the original Agreement period and will ultimately be at the County Council's sole discretion.

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

The initial contract is for 36 months until 31 March 2026 plus an extension to extend for up to 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028.

In the event the Agreement is extended the extension shall be on the same Terms and Conditions as the original Agreement period and will ultimately be at the County Council's sole discretion.

## **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: Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Service for Children and Young People aged 0 to 25 years with SEND and their Parents & Carers .

Lot No

2

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 85312300 - Guidance and counselling services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKG2 - Shropshire and Staffordshire

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

The procurement is for two distinct statutory Services that are required by Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board in relation to the provision of Independent Disagreement Resolution Services for SEND and Independent Mediation Services for Education Health and Care (EHC) Assessments and Reviews.

Independent Disagreement Resolution Services will put in place arrangements for managing disagreements across special educational provision, and health and care provision in relation to EHC Plans.

A Mediation Service will offer independent Mediation to Parents & Young People and will provide an opportunity to resolve issues linked to requests for an Education, Health and Care Assessment and the outcome of Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Plans Assessments /&Reviews prior to Parents & Young People lodging an appeal via the First-Tier Tribunal.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £361,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 July 2023

End date

31 March 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial contract is for 33 months until 31 March 2026 plus an extension to extend for up to 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028.

In the event the Agreement is extended the extension shall be on the same Terms and Conditions as the original Agreement period and will ultimately be at the County Council's sole discretion.

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

The initial contract is for 33 months until 31 March 2026 plus an extension to extend for up to 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028.

In the event the Agreement is extended the extension shall be on the same Terms and Conditions as the original Agreement period and will ultimately be at the County Council's sole discretion.

### **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 3 Advice and Mediation for Fostering Families

Lot No

3

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 85312300 - Guidance and counselling services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Staffordshire County Council (lead authority), Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Stoke-On-Trent City Council and Telford & Wrekin Borough Council (together 'the Partner Local Authorities) are working in collaboration to jointly procure a contract for an Advice and Mediation Service for Fostering Families.

The Service is required to ensure that Foster Carers are well supported in carrying out their

role as a Foster Carer and ensuring the early resolution of issues.

#### Advice Service

Delivering Advice and information to both approved and Prospective Foster Carers, on a wide range of issues which may affect the Foster Carer role and providing Advice and information to Partner Local Authorities where required.

#### Mediation

Mediation is defined as the attempt to settle a dispute through a neutral third party. Mediation is a structured process that allows people to negotiate the issues with a hands-on approach.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £218,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 October 2023

End date

31 March 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial contract is for 30 months until 31 March 2026 plus an extension to extend for up to 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028.

In the event the Agreement is extended the extension shall be on the same Terms and Conditions as the original Agreement period and will ultimately be at the County Council's sole discretion.

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

The initial contract is for 30 months until 31 March 2026 plus an extension to extend for up to 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028.

In the event the Agreement is extended the extension shall be on the same Terms and Conditions as the original Agreement period and will ultimately be at the County Council's sole discretion.

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2022/S 000-018167](#)

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

Date

5 October 2022

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

#### **IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Duration in months: 3 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

#### **IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

5 October 2022

Local time

12:30pm

Place

2 Staffordshire Place

Tipping Street

Stafford

ST16 2D

Information about authorised persons and opening procedure

Staffordshire County Council Staff Members.

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

Estimated timing for further notices to be published: The initial contract is until 31 March 2026 plus an extension to

extend for up to 2 x 12 months until 31 March 2028.

In the event the Agreement is extended the extension shall be on the same Terms and

Conditions as the original Agreement period and will ultimately be at the County Council's sole discretion.

### **VI.2) Information about electronic workflows**

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used



## **VI.4) Procedures for review**

### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire Place 2, Tipping Street

Stafford

ST16 2DH

Country

United Kingdom

### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

The Contracting Authority will incorporate a minimum 10 calendar day standstill period (or 15 days where non electronic or fax methods are used) at the point that an award decision notice is communicated to tenderers.

The award decision process will specify the criteria for the award of the contract/framework agreement, the

reasons for the decision, including the characteristics and relative advantages, the name and score of the

successful tender(s), and will specify when the standstill period is expected to end or the date before which the

Contracting Authority will not conclude the contract / framework agreement.

If an appeal regarding the award of a contract / framework agreement has not been

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successfully resolved, the

Public Contracts Regulations 2015 provide for aggrieved parties who have been harmed or are at risk of a

breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (England, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Any such action must be brought promptly (generally within 3 months). The Court may order the setting aside of

the award decision or may order the Contracting Authority to amend any document and may award damages.

If an agreement has been entered into the Court may make a declaration of ineffectiveness or may order that

the duration of any relevant specific contract be shortened and additionally may award damages.

The time limit for seeking such a declaration is generally 30 days from notification of the award (either by award

decision notification or contract award notice depending upon the circumstances) or

otherwise 6 month