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Planning

## Work Ready Service for Young Adults with Mental Illness

Essex County Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-024498

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051ca2

Published 22 May 2025, 9:55am

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### Scope

### Description

Essex County Council is commissioning a service to support individuals aged 16 to 26 years old who have experienced severe mental illness to achieve their vocational goals and aspirations.

This service is in response to the disruption young adults experienced during and following Covid and the high levels of mental health illness now being experienced by young adults which is impacting on their education and employment opportunities

This is a newly commissioned service, based on the data, needs and voice of people that use services who have told us that they do not get the support around their vocational aspirations when they need it due to their mental illness.

The requirements for this service are not fully prescriptive.

Essex County Council would expect the successful provider to work with commissioners and crucially people with lived experience and their carers to inform the design and

delivery using a robust approach to co-producing the service.

Lived experience and co-production should be at the heart of shaping the service and Essex County Council fully expects the service to evolve over the life of the contract to reflect this.

The purpose of the service is to support young adults to:

- Be enabled to develop the life skills necessary to access education, training or paid employment.
- Build resilience and aspirations and return to school, college and/or begin training
- Build confidence, self-esteem and motivation
- Develop plans for how to achieve their career plans and aspirations
- Build life skills such as time management, financial/budget management, organisation and team work
- Become engagement ready and access other resources in the community such as youth services
- In particular, the service is to provide opportunities for those individuals who may not have supportive families to guide them through finishing education and planning for work.
- The service will also contribute to the delivery of the outcomes set out in the Essex Mental Health Strategy.

The Authority is issuing this Preliminary Market Engagement Notice to engage with the market and discuss the upcoming tender. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact [elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk)

## **Commercial tool**

Establishes a dynamic market

## **Total value (estimated)**

- £627,000 excluding VAT
- £627,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 18 August 2025 to 18 August 2028
- Possible extension to 18 August 2030
- 5 years, 1 day

### **Main procurement category**

Services

### **CPV classifications**

- 85100000 - Health services
- 85300000 - Social work and related services

### **Contract locations**

- UKJ - South East (England)

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## **Engagement**

### **Engagement deadline**

2 June 2025

## **Engagement process description**

The Market Engagement Session will be held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 3rd May at 12pm, it will be hosted by Commissioning and Procurement.

Please contact [elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk) by 11:59pm on Monday 2nd May if you are interested in this opportunity.

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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

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

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## **Submission**

### **Publication date of tender notice (estimated)**

9 June 2025

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## **Procedure**

## Special regime

Light touch

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## Contracting authority

### Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Contact name: Elizabeth Willis

Email: [elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk)

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government