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Contract

Early Years: Accredited level 3 training for Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs)

Department for Education

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-028201

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04cd8e

Published 28 May 2025, 3:44pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

kate.honour@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Early Years: Accredited level 3 training for Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This contract is to deliver training to a minimum of 1,000 early years (EY) Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) resulting in an accredited Level 3 EY SENCO qualification. The training will be for SENCOs working in group-based and childminder settings. The training will be available across England.

Early identification of SEND is essential. As set out in statutory guidance SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years, (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>) ("the code of practice"), it is particularly important in the early years that there is no delay in making any necessary special educational provision. Early action to address identified needs is critical to preparing children for school, and to the future progress and improved outcomes that are essential in helping children to prepare for adult life.

Providing high quality special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) training for the Early Years workforce is therefore essential to address challenges within the current EY SEND system, including maximising access to entitlement places and delivering quality care and early intervention for children with SEND whilst in settings. SENCOs play a fundamental role in this.

The primary objective for any future training would be to increase the number of level 3 qualified SENCOs available to children in group-based and childminder settings, who have the knowledge and skills to properly fulfil the role of a SENCO, as described in the Code of Practice.

The role of the SENCO involves:

- ensuring all educators in the setting understand their responsibilities to children with SEND and the setting's approach to identifying and meeting SEN
- advising and supporting colleagues
- ensuring parents are closely involved throughout and that their insights inform action taken by the setting, and
- liaising with professionals or agencies beyond the setting.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £945,453.10

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 800000000 - Education and training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Mandatory Requirements / Weighting: Mandatory

Quality criterion - Name: Quality Evaluation / Weighting: 70%

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10%

Quality criterion - Name: Further Information / Weighting: Mandatory

Quality criterion - Name: Price Evaluation / Weighting: 20%

Price - Weighting: 20%

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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.2.14) Additional information

NA

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: [2025/S 000-004325](#)

IV.2.9) Information about termination of call for competition in the form of a prior information notice

The contracting authority will not award any further contracts based on the above prior information notice

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

con_27589

Lot No

NA

Title

Early Years: Accredited Level 3 training for Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs)

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

19 May 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 9

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Best Practice Network

Bristol

BS1 1LT

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKK - South West (England)

National registration number

04472661

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £945,453.10

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London

London

SW1P 3BT

Country

United Kingdom