

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/028586-2021>

Tender

NEPO605 - Children's Advocacy, Independent Visitors, independent people for Children and Adult Complaints and Secure Reviews (P-007452 / C-012099)

Newcastle City Council
Darlington Borough Council
Durham County Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Middlesbrough Council
North Tyneside Council
Northumberland County Council
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
South Tyneside Council
Stockton Borough Council
Sunderland City Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-028586

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02f719

Published 16 November 2021, 12:35pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Newcastle City Council

Barras Bridge

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

NE1 8QH

Contact

Becky Polito

Email

becky.polito@newcastle.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1912115877

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC22 - Tyneside

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.1) Name and addresses

Darlington Borough Council

Town Hall, Feethems,

Darlington

DL1 5QT

Contact

Josh Slack

Email

josh.slack@darlington.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC1 - Tees Valley and Durham

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.1) Name and addresses

Durham County Council

County Hall

Durham

DH1 5UL

Contact

Dawn Wilson

Email

dawn.wilson@durham.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC14 - Durham CC

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.1) Name and addresses

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council

Gateshead, Civic Centre, Regent Street

Gateshead

NE8 1HH

Contact

Carl Taylor

Email

carltaylor@gateshead.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC22 - Tyneside

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.1) Name and addresses

Hartlepool Borough Council

Victoria Road

Hartlepool

TS24 8AY

Contact

Katie Mitchelson

Email

katie.mitchelson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC11 - Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.1) Name and addresses

Middlesbrough Council

Town Hall, Corporation Road

Middlesbrough

TS1 9FX

Contact

Hannah Lowe

Email

hannah_lowe@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC1 - Tees Valley and Durham

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.1) Name and addresses

North Tyneside Council

Quadrant, Cobalt Business Park

North Tyneside

NE27 0BY

Contact

Rebecca Bacon

Email

rebecca.bacon@northtyneside.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC22 - Tyneside

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/>

I.1) Name and addresses

Northumberland County Council

County Hall

Morpeth

NE61 2EF

Contact

Vicky Lockyer

Email

vicky.lockyer@northumberland.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC21 - Northumberland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

I.1) Name and addresses

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Redcar and Cleveland House, Kirkleatham Street

Redcar

TS10 1RT

Contact

Emma Russell

Email

emma.russell@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC1 - Tees Valley and Durham

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

I.1) Name and addresses

South Tyneside Council

Town Hall and Civic Offices, Westoe Road

South Shields

NE33 2RL

Contact

Hannah Clark

Email

hannah.clark@southtyneside.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC22 - Tyneside

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.1) Name and addresses

Stockton Borough Council

Municipal Buildings, Church Road

Stockton-on-Tees

TS18 1LD

Contact

Craig Bartlett

Email

craig.bartlett@stockton.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC11 - Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.1) Name and addresses

Sunderland City Council

Civic Centre, Burdon Road

Sunderland

SR2 7DN

Contact

Sophie Maddison

Email

sophie.maddison@togetherforchildren.org.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC23 - Sunderland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.sunderland.gov.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.nepo.org

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

www.nepo.org

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

NEPO605 - Children's Advocacy, Independent Visitors, independent people for Children and Adult Complaints and Secure Reviews (P-007452 / C-012099)

Reference number

NEPO605 - (P-007452 / C-012113)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Newcastle City Council ("the Lead Authority") is acting as the lead authority on behalf of the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) and its Member Authorities, in respect of the procurement of this Flexible Procurement Agreement (Contract) for:

Lot 1 - Children's Advocacy,

Lot 2 - Independent Visitor Services

Lot 3 - Investigating Officers (Children and Adult Stage Two Complaints)

Lot 4 - Independent Persons (Children and Adult Stage Two Complaints)

Lot 5 - Independent Chairs for Stage Three Statutory Children's Social Care Complaints

Lot 6 - Independent Panellists for Stage Three Statutory Children's Social Care Complaints

Lot 7 - Independent Persons for Secure Accommodation Reviews

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £1,800,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 6

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Children's Advocacy

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Delivery of Children's Advocacy Services.

The Participating Authorities have discussed the risks and benefits of appointing the same Provider to deliver services under both Lots 1 and 2. For the following reasons they have decided that they will be appointing different Providers to each Lot:

- 1) the cohort of Children / Young People eligible to access these services is different,
- 2) referrals routes for these services are different,
- 3) they feel that there is the potential for confusion of boundaries for the roles and responsibilities between advocates and independent visitors; these roles carry out two distinct functions, and
- 4) we feel that by appointing different Providers to deliver services under Lots 1 and 2 will encourage applications to a wider group of Providers, including smaller Providers who may only be able to provide Services under one of these Lots.

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: £700,000

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

Duration in months

36

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 12-month options to extend

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Independent Visitor Services

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Provision of Independent Visitor Services.

The Participating Authorities have discussed the risks and benefits of appointing the same Provider to deliver services under both Lots 1 and 2. For the following reasons they have decided that they will be appointing different Providers to each Lot:

- 1) the cohort of Children / Young People eligible to access these services is different,
- 2) referrals routes for these services are different,
- 3) they feel that there is the potential for confusion of boundaries for the roles and

responsibilities between advocates and independent visitors; these roles carry out two distinct functions, and

4) we feel that by appointing different Providers to deliver services under Lots 1 and 2 will encourage applications to a wider group of Providers, including smaller Providers who may only be able to provide Services under one of these Lots.

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: £180,000

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

Duration in months

36

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 12-month options to extend

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Investigating Officers (Children and Adult Stage Two Complaints)

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Provision of Investigating Officers (Children and Adult Stage Two Complaints) Services

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: £600,000

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

Duration in months

36

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 12-month options to extend

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Independent Persons (Children and Adult Stage Two Complaints)

Lot No

4

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Delivery of Independent Persons (Children and Adult Stage Two Complaints) Services

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: £240,000

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

Duration in months

36

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 12-month options to extend

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Independent Chairs for Stage Three Statutory Children's Social Care Complaints

Lot No

5

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Delivery of Independent Chairs for Stage Three Statutory Children's Social Care Complaints

Services

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: £60,000

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

Duration in months

36

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 12-month options to extend

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Independent Panellists for Stage Three Statutory Children's Social Care Complaints

Lot No

6

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Delivery of Independent Panellists for Stage Three Statutory Children's Social Care Complaints Services

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: £60,000

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

Duration in months

36

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 12-month options to extend

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Independent Persons for Secure Accommodation Reviews

Lot No

7

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Delivery of Independent Persons for Secure Accommodation Reviews Services

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: £30,000

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

Duration in months

36

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 12-month options to extend

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

Full requirements are detailed in the tender pack

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

List and brief description of selection criteria

Full requirements are detailed in the tender pack

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

Full requirements are detailed in the tender pack

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

List and brief description of selection criteria

Full requirements are detailed in the tender pack

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

Full requirements are detailed in the tender pack

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.2) Contract performance conditions

Full requirements are detailed in the tender pack

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

Date

20 December 2021

Local time

5:00pm

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

21 December 2021

Local time

10:00am

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.3) Additional information

Newcastle City Council ("the Lead Authority") is acting as the lead authority on behalf of the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) and its Member Authorities, in respect of the procurement of this Flexible Procurement Agreement (Contract) for:

Lot 1 - Children's Advocacy,

Lot 2 - Independent Visitor Services

Lot 3 - Investigating Officers (Children and Adult Stage Two Complaints)

Lot 4 - Independent Persons (Children and Adult Stage Two Complaints)

Lot 5 - Independent Chairs for Stage Three Statutory Children's Social Care Complaints

Lot 6 - Independent Panellists for Stage Three Statutory Children's Social Care Complaints

Lot 7 - Independent Persons for Secure Accommodation Reviews

The North East regional governance arrangements have determined that this is a non-mandatory collaborative exercise, and as a result, Local Authorities can 'opt-in' to the six different elements of the solution, with some Local Authorities choosing to continue to purchase some of these services through other local arrangements.

The Participating Local Authorities 'opting in' to the initial phase of this solution will be:

1. Darlington - all elements except Independent Visitors,
2. Durham - all elements except Children's Advocacy
3. Gateshead - all elements
4. Hartlepool - all elements except Independent Visitors
5. Middlesbrough - all elements except Independent Visitors,

6. Newcastle (Lead Authority) - all elements
7. North Tyneside - all elements except Independent Visitors,
8. Northumberland - all elements except Children's Advocacy
9. Redcar & Cleveland - all elements except Independent Visitors,
10. South Tyneside - all elements
11. Stockton - all elements except Independent Visitors, and
12. Sunderland - all elements

Local Authorities who have 'opted out' for any Lot at this initial period of the solution may 'opt-in' to use the solution during its term.

The agreement will be available for use by all NEPO Members. A list of member organisations is available in the About section of the NEPO website at: www.nepo.org.

This agreement will also be made available to all current and future NEPO Associate Members. Current Associate Members are listed in the Associate Member section of the NEPO website at: www.nepo.org/associate-membership/list.

NEPO intends to make the resulting agreement available for use by all Contracting Authorities throughout all administrative regions of the UK (as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) including but not limited to Government Departments and their Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Central Government, NHS Bodies, Local Authorities, Emergency Services, Coastguard Emergency Services, Educational Establishments, Registered Social Landlords and Registered Charities who have a need to purchase the above services.

Please see the following websites for further details:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/index.htm>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies>

<http://www.schoolswebdirectory.co.uk/localauthorities.php>

<http://www.ukschoolsdirectory.net>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-school-in-england>

<https://education.gov.scot/ParentZone>

<http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/>

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development>

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/institutions/>

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/workprovide/unicoll/heis/>

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/workprovide/unicoll/fecs/>

<http://www.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectories/Pages/AcuteTrustListing.aspx>

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhswalesaboutus/structure>

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/TheService/organised.aspx>

<http://www.hscni.net/index.php?link=trusts>

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/TheService/organised.aspx>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/A-ZOfCentralGovernment/index.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/gov.htm>

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-councils-in-northern-ireland>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/02/2421/1>

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/contact>

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/articles/list-public-bodies-which-ni-public-procurement-policy-applies>

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

<https://www.police.uk/forces/>

<http://www.police-information.co.uk/index.html>

<http://www.psnipolice.uk/index.htm>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

<http://www.fireservice.co.uk/information/ukfrs>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/law-order/Police/PoliceServiceofScotland>

<http://www.fire.org.uk/fire-brigades.html>

<http://www.nifrs.org/areas-districts/>

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area.aspx>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-registered-providers-of-social-housing>

<http://directory.scottishhousingregulator.gov.uk/pages/default.aspx>

<https://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/publications/registered-social-landlords-in-wales/?lang=en>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/housing-associations>

[http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/About us/Regulation/Registering charities index.aspx](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/About_us/Regulation/Registering_charities_index.aspx)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

<https://idea.org.uk/>

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharitis/register>

homepage.aspx

http://www.sell3wales.gov.uk?Search/search_Auth.aspx

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom/factsandfigures/housingplanning1/>

facts/socialhousing/?id=1822644

A complete list of permissible users is shown on the NEPO website below:

<https://www.nepo.org/associate-membership/permissible-users>

Organisations wishing to access the NEPO agreement will be required to register as a NEPO Associate Member in the first instance.

Further information can be found at: www.nepo.org

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO)

Newcastle

Country

United Kingdom