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Planning

Family Court Pathfinder: Independent Specialist Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

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

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Published 23 June 2025, 2:42pm

Scope

Reference

OPCC0005

Description

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service and Cafcass) are seeking views in respect of a new service that is being considered as part of the Government's commitment to pilot a reformed approach to child arrangement proceedings. The new service is aligned to the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) commitments in her Police and Crime Plan to continue to work in partnership to help protect women and girls from all forms of abuse and to commission services to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG) and support victims/survivors, including victims/survivors of domestic abuse (DA), sexual crimes and stalking.

In June 2020, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published the 'Assessing Risk of Harm to Children and Parents in Private Law Children Cases' Report (The Harm Panel Report)

which called for widespread reforms to the Family Court system. It heard evidence that many DA victim/survivors were being re-traumatised by the current 'adversarial' system. One of the report's recommendations was for the Family Court to better support DA victim/survivors by linking with local DA service providers to provide independent and specialist DA advocacy/support and risk assessment services, with their independence from the court being a key factor.

In response to this report, Government committed to pilot a reformed approach to child arrangement proceedings, delivering the former Government's manifesto commitment to pilot integrated DA courts taking a more investigative approach to the Family Courts.

This model was taken forward in February 2022 in the form of the 'Family Court Pathfinder Pilots', to test a less adversarial and more investigative approach to managing private family law cases.

Through this model, the court aims to identify families' needs earlier and work with both adults and children, as well as external agencies such as Local Authorities, the Police, and education settings, to better understand families' circumstances and help them reach a safe agreement without the need for multiple hearings.

Importantly, 'Pathfinder' also brings in specialist DA agencies to work alongside His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) and Cafcass/Cafcass Cymru to provide crucial support to children and families at an earlier point in proceedings.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is seeking a delivery partner to support the provision of independent and specialist Domestic Abuse advocacy and support within Designated Family Judge areas across Hampshire and Isle of Wight in relation to private law proceedings.

While the initial contract period is 1st December 2025 - 31st March 2026 it will have the potential to be extended for a period or periods of up to 3 years subject to future Government funding and policy decision.

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 December 2025 to 31 March 2026
- 4 months

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85300000 - Social work and related services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

14 July 2025

Engagement process description

Please complete the below short survey: (5 minutes)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eUPeI3qVpkGVhxZdbGtNvdMqOIKfGWNAgMjmtHrljpxUNThaUEhUNTIFV1NXUkxYUUU4RzZCNFJNTC4u>

Contracting authority

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

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Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government