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Planning

Tuition Services

Thurrock Council

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - view information about notice types
Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-035571
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-052447 (view related notices)
Published 27 June 2025, 8:11am

Scope

Reference

PS/2025/076

Description

Thurrock Council is seeking to engage with education providers to inform the future commissioning of tuition services for children who do not have a school place or have Special Educational Needs or disabilities (SEND), or where it has been identified that external tuition may better suit their learning needs, including those receiving medical tuition.

This market engagement exercise is part of our strategic planning to ensure high-quality, cost-effective, and responsive tuition provision that meets the diverse needs of our local population.

The number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Thurrock has grown significantly in recent years, with 2500+ children with a current active plan. This has led to rising demand for tuition services, particularly for pupils with Social, Emotional

and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and Autism. Current provision is heavily reliant on a small number of providers, with significant cost variation and limited capacity for in-person delivery. The current annual expenditure on tuition is £1.7m.

We are exploring options to:

• Expand the provider base

• Improve value for money

• Enhance outcomes for pupils

• Support earlier reintegration into mainstream education where appropriate

The framework is intended primarily for use by the Council's Special Educational Needs service, the Virtual School Team for Looked After Children, and the Access and Inclusion Team.

Lots that will be available within the tender will be:

• One-to-One - In-person

• Group - In-person

• One-to-One virtual/online

• Group - virtual/online

And may further be broken down by group size and whether the groups are Thurrock pupils only or mixed with other area's pupils.

We invite providers to share their views and capabilities to help shape a future commissioning framework that is inclusive, flexible, and sustainable. Note - this is a soft market test and is not a call for tender. Details provided will remain anonymous and confidential and will not be used as part of any future tender submission.

The indicative planned tender timeline is set out below:

- Tender launch - between January and March 2026

- Contract award (based on a February launch) - April/May 2026

- Mobilisation - April/May 2026 - August 2026

- Contract live - September 2026

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80340000 - Special education services
- 80420000 - E-learning services
- 80510000 - Specialist training services
- 80100000 - Primary education services
- 80200000 - Secondary education services
- 80500000 - Training services
- 80000000 - Education and training services

Contract locations

- UKH32 - Thurrock

Engagement

Engagement deadline

31 July 2025

Engagement process description

Interested parties should complete the questionnaire on In-tend: https://in-tendhost.co.uk/thurrockcouncil/aspx/ProjectManage/1623

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

2 January 2026

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Thurrock Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMHW-1723-WDCD

New Road

Grays

RM17 6SL

United Kingdom

Email: Procurement@thurrock.gov.uk

Region: UKH32 - Thurrock

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government