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Planning

Shortbreaks Commissioning

Devon County Council

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

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Scope

Reference

CP2632-25

Description

Devon County Council are seeking to engage with Providers to start the journey with us in improving our local offer for Disabled Children and Young People in Devon including our universal offer, targeted offer, through to Specialist Shortbreaks.

Disabled children and young people have the right to be supported at home and in their local communities, to have opportunities to meet and make friends, feel confident, and to thrive with a good family life. Short breaks help to do this by giving an opportunity for children and young people to meet new people, take part in activities, enjoy positive learning opportunities and have different experiences whilst giving their families a break from their caring responsibilities.

Short breaks can last a few hours, a whole day, evening, overnight or for a whole weekend, or during the school holidays. They can take place at home, in the community or in a residential setting. Childcare settings can sometimes be used as venues for short break activities.

They can include support to access activities such as sports, music, crafts, drama or community groups; this might be through support from workers often called 'enablers'. This could be for a limited time to help a child join in with an activity until they can attend independently, or ongoing depending on their individual needs.

They can also include group activities like youth clubs, Saturday groups and holiday clubs.

Support is also available in the home through short breaks, either to offer a child or young person's parents additional support while they are there or to allow family members to take a break from their caring role.

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2030
- Possible extension to 31 May 2034
- 8 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

Contract locations

- UKK4 - Devon

Engagement

Engagement deadline

30 September 2025

Engagement process description

Dear All

We are inviting organisations and community groups to come to one of our discovery days, where we are looking to start our journey together in improving our local offer for Disabled Children and Young People in Devon including our universal offer, targeted offer, through to Specialist Shortbreaks.

Below are some of the key things we would like to achieve in children services and what we believe would be the benefits to organisations/communities.

What we hope to achieve in Children's Services:

- Learn about existing and potential services available in local communities that could support with the Shortbreaks offer
- Understand potential opportunities in current challenges highlighted from needs analysis, including helping older children develop independence skills and those currently underserved locations.
- Identify challenges and areas for improvement from provider to ensure services are effective and practical.

Why your Organisation/Communities should get involved:

- Early engagement with Devon's direction for short breaks, ensuring alignment with future plans.
- Discover potential opportunities for service development and partnership collaboration.
- Share experiences, highlight challenges, and showcase positive impacts to influence service improvements.

Dates are below:

11th July 2025 at 1pm, Tavistock Discovery Day - Disabled Childrens Service

15th July 2025 at 2pm, Barnstaple Discovery Day - Disabled Childrens Service

18th July 2025 at 10.15am, Exeter Discovery Day - Disabled Childrens Service

Please email childrenscommissioningsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk for full location details and to book a place.

Thank you.

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

31 October 2025

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Devon County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJRC-4623-RJBH

County Hall, Topsham Road,

Exeter,

EX2 4QD

United Kingdom

Email: procurement-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Region: UKK43 - Devon CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

