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Planning

CP2706-25 Growing Futures - Strategic Partner

Devon County Council

UK3: Planned procurement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-039234

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-055d92

Published 11 July 2025, 12:30pm

Scope

Reference

CP2706-25

Description

Devon County Council (DCC) is issuing this notice to inform the market of its intention to procure a strategic partner for the delivery of:

- Children's homes
- High-needs foster care
- Associated therapeutic education

This strategic partnership model—rather than traditional block contracting—is intended to provide greater flexibility and responsiveness to the evolving needs of children and young people. The aim is to deliver more adaptable, blended care solutions tailored to individual circumstances.

By fully integrating this provision with existing council children's services, DCC seeks to enhance support for children and young people with the most complex needs. The overarching goal is to provide stable, local homes within Devon, alongside consistent access to education from childhood through to adulthood—enabling young people to thrive and reach their full potential.

DCC is seeking to establish a long-term (10-year) strategic partnership with a provider who shares its values and commitment to supporting vulnerable children and young people. This new wraparound service will focus on those at risk of, or currently placed in, high-cost and often distant settings—whether due to mental health or social care needs. It will also address the growing number of children under the age of 13 living in children's homes rather than in family-based care.

To facilitate the procurement process DCC will adopt a Competitive Flexible Procedure (CFP) in order to introduce an element of Negotiation to this process.

Scope of Provision

The proposed service will include:

- 12 small children's homes (2–3 beds each), including one dedicated to children under 13
- 20 specialist high-needs foster carers, with 6–8 focused on under-13s, supported by a dedicated children's home
- 3–4 small therapeutic schools, including at least one for primary-aged children

This integrated model is designed to ensure continuity of care, education, and therapeutic support, enabling better outcomes for some of Devon's most vulnerable children and young people.

Total value (estimated)

- £156,000,000 excluding VAT
- £156,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 February 2026 to 31 January 2036
- 10 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85000000 - Health and social work services
- 98000000 - Other community, social and personal services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

25 August 2025

Submission type

Requests to participate

Deadline for requests to participate

25 September 2025, 12:00pm

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

30 January 2026

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)
-

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Competitive flexible procedure description

To facilitate the procurement process DCC will adopt a Competitive Flexible Procedure (CFP) in order to introduce an element of Negotiation to this process.

Documents

Documents to be provided after the tender notice

These will be provided via the tendering portal <https://www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk/>

Contracting authority

Devon County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJRC-4623-RJBH

County Hall

Exeter

EX2 4QD

United Kingdom

Contact name: Iain Perkins

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Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government