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Planning

CP2706-25 Growing Futures - Strategic Partner

Devon County Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-039386

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-055d92 ([view related notices](#))

Published 11 July 2025, 3:59pm

Scope

Reference

CP2706-25

Description

Devon County Council is inviting SME providers to participate in a market engagement event to help shape the procurement of a strategic partner for the delivery of:

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

This strategic partnership approach—rather than traditional block contracting—will enable greater flexibility and responsiveness to evolving needs. It aims to offer children and young people more adaptable, blended care options tailored to their individual circumstances.

By fully integrating this provision with existing council children's services, DCC seeks to better support children and young people with the most complex needs. The goal is to provide stable homes within Devon, alongside consistent access to education from childhood through to adulthood, helping them 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 in, high-cost and often distant placements—whether due to mental health or social care needs. It will also address the increasing number of children under 13 living in children's homes rather than family settings.

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:

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

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

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

Contract locations

- UKK43 - Devon CC

Engagement

Engagement deadline

31 July 2025

Engagement process description

Devon County Council wishes to undertake a virtual Preliminary market engagement in order to better appreciate and understand the market for this service and ensure it can produce a specification, tender process and final contract as attractive as possible to potential suppliers.

Market Engagement Event Details:

Date: 23rd July 2025

Time: 09:00 - 10:00am

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

To register: Suppliers wishing to attend the event are required to complete the following form to express their interest.

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=gzehjWjLP0S7S5I_d_1b-8-nTsG00hVFirg3XW0XaTRUMFRNUdc1NUtKWUI5NlpONVdSTzRUM1hLNS4u&route=shorturl

Alternatively, if this link does not work please email procurementpeople-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Please note, the form is to be completed and submitted not later than 14:00pm, 22nd July 2025. The Authority will send an invite link to all suppliers who have submitted the form.

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

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Devon County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJRC-4623-RJBH

County Hall, The Annexe

Exeter

EX2 4QD

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Contact name: Iain Perkins

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Region: UKK43 - Devon CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government