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Planning

Work Ready Service for Young Adults with Mental Illness

Essex County Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-041308

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051ca2

Published 18 July 2025, 1:40pm

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

For transparency: an unexpected delay took place, the market engagement session was held on 25th June 2025 at 11:30am.

I am amending this notice to provide this information.

Scope

Description

Essex County Council is commissioning a service to support individuals aged 16 to 26 years old who have experienced severe mental illness to achieve their vocational goals and aspirations.

This service is in response to the disruption young adults experienced during and following Covid and the high levels of mental health illness now being experienced by young adults which is impacting on their education and employment opportunities

This is a newly commissioned service, based on the data, needs and voice of people that use services who have told us that they do not get the support around their vocational aspirations when they need it due to their mental illness.

The requirements for this service are not fully prescriptive.

Essex County Council would expect the successful provider to work with commissioners and crucially people with lived experience and their carers to inform the design and delivery using a robust approach to co-producing the service.

Lived experience and co-production should be at the heart of shaping the service and Essex County Council fully expects the service to evolve over the life of the contract to reflect this.

The purpose of the service is to support young adults to:

- Be enabled to develop the life skills necessary to access education, training or paid employment.
- Build resilience and aspirations and return to school, college and/or begin training
- Build confidence, self-esteem and motivation
- Develop plans for how to achieve their career plans and aspirations
- Build life skills such as time management, financial/budget management, organisation and team work
- Become engagement ready and access other resources in the community such as youth services
- In particular, the service is to provide opportunities for those individuals who may not have supportive families to guide them through finishing education and planning for work.

- The service will also contribute to the delivery of the outcomes set out in the Essex Mental Health Strategy.

The Authority is issuing this Preliminary Market Engagement Notice to engage with the market and discuss the upcoming tender. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk

Commercial tool

Establishes a dynamic market

Total value (estimated)

- £627,000 excluding VAT
- £627,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 18 August 2025 to 18 August 2028
- Possible extension to 18 August 2030
- 5 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85100000 - Health services
- 85300000 - Social work and related services

Contract locations

- UKJ - South East (England)

Engagement

Engagement deadline

25 June 2025

The engagement was carried out before this notice was published.

Engagement process description

The Market Engagement Session was due to be held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 3rd June at 12pm, unfortunately this has now been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. It will be rescheduled within the next few weeks, however the exact date is unclear. Our team is hoping this will be no later than 20th June.

However, please contact elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk if you are interested in this opportunity or would like further information.

(Update note for transparency: the market engagement was held on 25th June 2025 at 11:30am.)

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Contact name: Elizabeth Willis

Email: elizabeth.willis@essex.gov.uk

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government