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Tender

## **Work Ready Service for Young Adults with Mental Illness**

Essex County Council

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-041375

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

Published 18 July 2025, 3:17pm

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### **Scope**

### **Reference**

DN777528

### **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.

### **Total value (estimated)**

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

Above the relevant threshold

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 29 September 2025 to 29 September 2028
- Possible extension to 29 September 2030
- 5 years, 1 day

Description of possible extension:

There is an optional 24 month extension.

### **Main procurement category**

Services

### **CPV classifications**

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

### **Contract locations**

- UKJ - South East (England)

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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

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## **Submission**

### **Enquiry deadline**

5 August 2025, 11:59pm

### **Tender submission deadline**

12 August 2025, 12:00pm

### **Submission address and any special instructions**

<https://procontract.due-north.com/>

### **Tenders may be submitted electronically**

Yes

### **Languages that may be used for submission**

English

### **Award decision date (estimated)**

22 September 2025

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## Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Service Delivery	Quality	60%
Commercial	Cost	30%
Social Value	Quality	10%

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## Other information

### Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Open procedure

### Special regime

Light touch

### Reduced tendering period

Yes

Light touch contract - no minimum

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## 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: [ProcurementSandA@essex.gov.uk](mailto:ProcurementSandA@essex.gov.uk)

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government