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Planning

SEN Unit and Resourced Provision Guidance

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-041692

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-056311

Published 21 July 2025, 2:49pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Contact

Core Procurement Team

Email

core.procurement@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

00000000

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/procurement>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

SEN Unit and Resourced Provision Guidance

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The purpose of this early engagement notice is to notify the market of a forthcoming market engagement event relating to a potential procurement of an experienced Delivery Partner (DP) to develop best practice guidance, in partnership with DfE, to operate (and set up) SEN units, resourced provision, and pupil support units within mainstream schools. The guidance will be DfE guidance hosted on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). The department will be undertaking an online event on 24th July 2025 for interested suppliers.

The Delivery Partner must:

1. Have access to lead practitioners with an excellent understanding and proven track record of setting up and operating SEN units, resourced provision, and pupil support units (sometimes referred to as Internal AP) (collectively hereafter referred to as 'bases').
2. Understand the needs of mainstream schools and local authorities, so that the guidance helps senior leaders and staff to deliver high quality practice.
3. Have a track record of producing high quality and impactful sector facing resources, including guidance.
4. Have experienced facilitators able to engage and coordinate a wide range of stakeholders.
5. Have capacity to arrange and deliver facilitated working group sessions, work in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) to develop interim and final guidance, over a 6 month period.

A delivery partner will be selected via ECSC Dynamic Procurement System. Registration details can be found here:

https://educationgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/SURPGuidanceProcurement/_layouts/15/download.aspx?SourceUrl=%2Fsites%2FSURPGuidanceProcurement%2FShared%20Documents%2FDPS%20Guidance%2FNew%20%2D%201303%20%2D%20JAGGAER%20DPS%20Supplier%20Registration%20Guidance%20%28December%202020%29%20%281%29%2Epdf

The Department will be undertaking a market engagement webinar event on the 24th July at 14:00. We would like to invite you to the webinar, where we will provide further detail on the requirement and an opportunity to ask questions. It is anticipated that the event will last 45 minutes. The objectives of the event will be to:

- Give you an understanding of the aim of the potential procurement.
- Give you the opportunity to provide feedback.

Please note that a maximum of two people from each organisation can attend the event. You do not need to have completed DPS registration to attend the event, but you must be registered on the DPS to submit a bid.

We may record all questions asked, as well as answers given, and make these publicly available as reference for all interested parties.

If the procurement exercise goes ahead, it is expected to open in August 2025 for a window of around 14 days. More information on the potential procurement process will be provided following this market engagement activity.

This notice is for information only and is not a call for competition. The Department reserves the right not to enter a formal procurement process and not award contracts. Accordingly, the Authority will not be liable for any bid cost, expenditure, work or effort incurred by a provider in acting on the basis of this PIN. All future information will be issued to potential providers via the DfE eTendering Portal.

Kind regards

DfE

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £140,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)

- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Delivery Partner (DP) will be expected to develop best practice guidance in partnership with DfE, to operate and set up SEN units, resourced provision, and pupil support units within mainstream schools. The DfE team will support the DP to deliver these workstreams.

This programme of work aims to:

1. Use lead practitioners to establish best practice guidance for operating and setting up bases, seeking ideas/input from a wide range of practitioners.
2. Engage a wide range of stakeholders in the development of the guidance and build consensus.
3. Produce high-quality guidance, in collaboration with DfE, that will support schools and LAs to develop high-quality provision.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

21 July 2025

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Please contact core.procurement@education.gov.uk for details of the market engagement event.