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Award

Award of Centre for Excellence in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2025

The Education and Training Foundation

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-047056

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-054559 ([view related notices](#))

Published 7 August 2025, 4:59pm

Scope

Reference

25-26.SEND-65

Description

The Education and Training Foundation (ETF) is awarding a contract for a Centre for Excellence in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - Theme of 'People' following a competitive tender process.

The Centre of Excellence will design and deliver CPD based on the theme for leaders, managers and practitioners who wish to put learners with SEND at the centre of their organisation, resulting in learners achieving the outcomes they aspire to. The Centre will have national reach across England.

Working closely with ETF and SEND Employer Spokes, this Centre for Excellence will design and deliver live online events, Communities of Practice sessions and complete Peer Reviews focused on developing a whole organisational approach to SEND. This will result in learners achieving the outcomes they aspire to. Preparation for Adulthood is a

key priority for the Centre. It will offer a specialism in the theme of 'People' and will have equal parity, providing peer to peer support and sharing effective practice to the existing Centres of Excellence, Employer Spokes and the FE sector.

The ETF took a sector led approach to recruit FE providers who have been graded 'Good' or 'Outstanding' from Ofsted and/ or Care Quality Commission (CQC) for SEND provision.

Following a thorough evaluation process, it was decided to award a contract for the theme of 'People' only. The theme of 'Careers' will not be awarded as originally anticipated.

In the interest of transparency and fairness, ETF are observing a voluntary standstill period ending on the 15th August 2025. During this period, ETF will not enter into the contract, allowing time for any potential concerns to be raised.

The award decision remains subject to the conclusion of this standstill period and no legal proceedings being initiated.

ETF may consider a direct award contract for the theme of 'Careers' following the standstill period, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Procurement Act 2023, including any applicable direct award justifications under Schedule 5.

Contract 1. Centre for Excellence in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2025

Supplier

- City of Sunderland College

Contract value

- £137,952 excluding VAT

- £172,440 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Award decision date

6 August 2025

Earliest date the contract will be signed

18 August 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 19 August 2025 to 7 March 2026
- Possible extension to 31 March 2027
- 1 year, 7 months, 13 days

Description of possible extension:

The value of the contract for each Centre was circa 86,780 GBP inclusive of VAT. The duration of the contract is until 31st March 2026 with a possible extension of one year subject to the availability of funding.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80500000 - Training services

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Information about tenders

- 1 tender received
- 1 tender assessed in the final stage:
 - 0 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 1 supplier awarded contracts
- 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - open competition

Special regime

Light touch

Supplier

City of Sunderland College

- UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number): 10001475

Bede Campus, Durham Road

Sunderland

SR3 4AH

United Kingdom

Email: peter.monaghan@northumberland.ac.uk

Region: UKC23 - Sunderland

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Centre for Excellence in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2025

Contracting authority

The Education and Training Foundation

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTPV-9936-RPRN

157 - 197 Buckingham Palace Road

London

SW1W 9SP

United Kingdom

Contact name: Commissioning and Procurement

Telephone: +442037408280

Email: tenderqueries@etfoundation.co.uk

Website: <http://www.et-foundation.co.uk>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government