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Tender

Flexible Framework for Early Learning and Childcare Places August 2025

Renfrewshire Council

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-051932

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-054460

Published 28 August 2025, 12:29pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Renfrewshire Council

Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street

Paisley

PA1 1JB

Contact

Sarah Ford

Email

Sarah.Ford@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM83 - Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00400

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Flexible Framework for Early Learning and Childcare Places August 2025

Reference number

RC-CPU-25-008

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85312110 - Child daycare services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Renfrewshire Council is seeking to establish a multi-Provider Flexible Framework Agreement (Flexible Framework) for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Places. The Council is seeking to procure the service of local Providers in respect of the future provision of early learning and childcare places within the Renfrewshire Council Area in addition to and to supplement the service provided at Council premises. This will allow the Council flexibility to offer Parents and Carers (including kinship carers) a choice of Provider for the funded ELC entitlement via a Council owned and managed nursery or from an independent or third sector Provider.

It is anticipated that the Flexible Framework will be for a period of 4 years with the option to extend for up to 12 months on 3 separate occasions, subject to satisfactory operation and performance. It is anticipated that the Flexible Framework will start on the 7th April 2026 and will expire on the 6th April 2030. Should all extension options be taken, the End Date will be the 6th April 2033. In the event that the Flexible Framework does not start on 7th April 2026, the Flexible Framework will start on the Commencement Date as stated in the Letter of Acceptance. Providers' successful in obtaining a place on the Flexible Framework may have an Appointed Date which differs from the Commencement Date. The length of any Commissioned Place made under this Flexible Framework will be stated in the relevant Commissioned Place. A Commissioned Place may expire after the Flexible Framework End Date.

Tenderers should note there is no guaranteed level of spend for any Commissioned Place awarded under the Flexible Framework; there is also no guarantee of payment being made to a Provider solely by appointment to the Flexible Framework.

A flexible approach has been designed which will allow New Entrants to apply to be on the Flexible Framework.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £125,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Registered Childminder

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85312110 - Child daycare services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM83 - Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire

Main site or place of performance

Renfrewshire.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Tender Procedure shall be conducted in accordance with an above Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) Threshold as an Open procedure relating to Services under Schedule 3 – Social and Other Specific Services of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.

The scope of Services to be provided by a Provider under this Flexible Framework falls within the definition of a Chapter 3 Section 7 “Social and Other Specific Service” of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, as amended (Regulations) and therefore the Flexible Framework is not subject to the full requirements of the aforementioned Regulations. A flexible approach has been designed which will allow New Entrants to apply to be on the Flexible Framework throughout the Period of Contract.

The Council is seeking to establish a multi-Provider Flexible Framework Agreement.

The Council will call off from the Flexible Framework and invites responses to the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for a place on this Flexible Framework from suitably qualified Providers. Tenderers should note there is no guaranteed level of spend for any Commissioned Place awarded under the Flexible Framework; there is also no guarantee of payment being made to a Provider solely by appointment to the Flexible Framework.

II.2.7) Duration of the contract or the framework agreement

Duration in months

84

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

Tenderers must accept the Price as detailed in the Tender Documents.

Tenderers must meet the selection criteria as detailed in this Contract Notice and also meet the required technical criteria as detailed in the Tender Documents.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Registered Child Day Care Providers

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85312110 - Child daycare services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM83 - Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire

Main site or place of performance

Renfrewshire.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Tender Procedure shall be conducted in accordance with an above Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) Threshold as an Open procedure relating to Services

under Schedule 3 – Social and Other Specific Services of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.

The scope of Services to be provided by a Provider under this Flexible Framework falls within the definition of a Chapter 3 Section 7 “Social and Other Specific Service” of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, as amended (Regulations) and therefore the Flexible Framework is not subject to the full requirements of the aforementioned Regulations. A flexible approach has been designed which will allow New Entrants to apply to be on the Flexible Framework throughout the Period of Contract.

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Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.4) Objective rules and criteria for participation

List and brief description of rules and criteria

Tenderers must be registered with the Care Inspectorate (CI):

Lot 1 – Registered Child Day Care Providers – ‘Day care of children’

Lot 2 – Registered Childminders – ‘Childminding’

For Care Inspectorate Registered Service Provider already subject to a full inspection from the Care Inspectorate, to hold and maintain evaluations of Good or Better evaluation on all quality indicators assessed as part of inspection reports for the Period of Contract. Where a Tenderer does not currently hold evaluations of Good or Better for all Care Inspectorate quality indicators assessed on the date/time of the Tender Deadline, they may reapply to participate in the Flexible Framework at a future reopening as a New Entrant, when the minimum criteria for participation has been met.

Refer to III.2.1 for information relating to Newly Registered Settings.

Refer to VI.3) for further minimum requirements.

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.1) Information about a particular profession

Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession

Reference to the relevant law, regulation or administrative provision

Tenderers must be registered with the Care Inspectorate (CI):

Lot 1–Registered Child Day Care Providers – ‘Day care of children’

Lot 2–Registered Childminders – ‘Childminding’

Tenderers must hold and maintain evaluations of Good or Better on all quality indicators assessed as part of inspection reports with the CI for the Period of Contract. Where a Provider does not currently hold evaluations of Good or Better for all Care Inspectorate quality indicators assessed on the date/time of the Tender Deadline, they may apply to participate in the Flexible Framework at a future opening as a New Entrant, when the

minimum criteria for participation has been met. Tenderers should note that the Council reserves the right to consider any changes in Care Inspectorate evaluations up to the point of a preferred Tenderer(s) being appointed on the Flexible Framework. Newly registered Setting, Day Care Service or Child Minder, which have not received a full inspection by the CI may be required to submit additional evidence as part of their Tender Submission and may also be subject to a Tender Assessment Visit should they wish to be considered for a place on the Flexible Framework. Subject to the evaluation of their Tender Submission they shall be entered into a Probationary Period pending the outcome of their first inspection and provided the Council has sufficient evidence to assess that they have the potential to meet all other criteria in the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare.

III.2.2) Contract performance conditions

Providers must meet and uphold all the required criteria listed for the Period of Contract and Commissioned Places called off from the Flexible Framework.

III.2.3) Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Form of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

In the case of framework agreements, provide justification for any duration exceeding 4 years:

This requirement is being tendered under the regulations applicable for Social and Other Specific Services of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015. The Council may re-open the Flexible Framework for New Entrants to be added. New Entrants will be subject to the same minimum requirements as those who responded to the initial Contract Notice establishing the Flexible Framework.

IV.1.11) Main features of the award procedure

Tender responses for both Lot 1 and Lot 2 will be evaluated in line with the Award Criteria detailed in the Invitation to Tender.

The Quality/Price split for both Lot 1 and Lot 2 is Quality = 100% and Price = Pass/Fail.

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2025/S 000-030564](#)

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

9 October 2025

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.2) Information about electronic workflows

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

VI.3) Additional information

Minimum Requirements

The minimum insurance that all Tenderers will be required to evidence are detailed below.

Lot 1:

- Employers Liability - 5,000,000 GBP (statutory) each and every claim
- Public Liability - with appropriate extension for administering medication 10,000,000 GBP (any one occurrence)
- Professional Indemnity - 1,000,000 GBP (will accept cover in the aggregate)
- Motor Vehicle - Statutory Third-Party Motor Vehicle Insurance

Lot 2:

- Employers Liability - 5,000,000 GBP (statutory) each and every claim
- Public Liability - with appropriate extension for administering medication 5,000,000 GBP (any one occurrence)
- Professional Indemnity – 100,000 GBP (will accept cover in the aggregate)
- Motor Vehicle - Statutory Third-Party Motor Vehicle Insurance

Lot 1:

Each Tenderer will be expected to have a Dun and Bradstreet Failure Score of 20 or above. In the event that a Tenderer is unable to meet this requirement, they will be required to submit their most recent set of audited financial statements, along with those from the preceding financial year.

Lot 2:

Requirement to submit 3 years of tax returns.

Lot 1 and Lot 2:

Tenderers will be required to evidence that they have the appropriate experience of previous delivery of Services including confirmation of Care Inspectorate service numbers. Where the Tenderer is a Newly Registered Setting, Day Care Service or Childminder, they may confirm this within the Technical Experience response on the PCS-T System.

For Lot 1, Staff delivering the Service must be SSSC registered and be appropriately skilled and qualified.

For Lot 2, Staff delivering the Service must be appropriately skilled and qualified within the timescales set by the National Standard.

Lot 1 and Lot 2:

All Staff must be PVG checked.

Tenderers must have a Health and Safety Policy which includes risk assessments.

There will be online tender training sessions available to you through the Supplier Development Programme.

The sessions will take place on Wednesday 17th September 2025 - 10.30am-12.00pm and 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Please book one of the sessions via the links below:

<https://www.sdpscotland.co.uk/events/renfrewshire-early-learning-and-childcare-places-flexible-framework-1908/>

<https://www.sdpscotland.co.uk/events/renfrewshire-early-learning-and-childcare-places-flexible-framework-1909/>

The buyer is using PCS-Tender to conduct this ITT exercise. The Project code is 29688. For more information see:

<http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/info/InfoCentre.aspx?ID=2343>

A sub-contract clause has been included in this contract. For more information see:

<http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/info/InfoCentre.aspx?ID=2363>

Community benefits are included in this requirement. For more information see:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/public-sector-procurement/community-benefits-in-procurement/>

A summary of the expected community benefits has been provided as follows:

Lot 1:

The approach to Community Benefits within the Flexible Framework will be linked to cumulative annual spend (of Commissioned Places) with an individual Provider under Lot 1.

As part of their Tender Submission for the Flexible Framework, each Tenderer will be required to confirm their commitment to delivering Community Benefits throughout the Period of Contract (Flexible Framework) and after the End Date for Community Benefits due in the final 12 months of the Flexible Framework.

Throughout the Flexible Framework when the Council funds Commissioned Places, it will earn Community Benefit points. The number of points earned will correlate to the level of cumulative spend for the previous 12 months.

The Council will then agree with the Provider which Community Benefits to be delivered and timescales for delivery, using the Council's Community Benefits Outcome Menu (attached for information in the Supplier Attachment Area of PCS-T) as the basis for discussion/agreement of Community Benefits to be delivered.

Lot 2:

Community Benefits are being requested on a voluntary basis.

(SC Ref:805931)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Court of Session

Parliament Square

Edinburgh

EH1 1RQ

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

An economic operator that suffers, or risks suffering, loss or damage attributable to a breach of duty under the Public Contracts(Scotland) Regulations 2015 (SSI 2015/446) (as amended) may bring proceedings in the Sheriff Court or Court of Session.