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Tender

## **Specialist Education Framework Phase 1 – Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools Round 4**

Nottinghamshire County Council

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-054703

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0468ed

Published 8 September 2025, 2:50pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Nottinghamshire County Council

County Hall, Loughborough Road Westbridgford

Nottinghamshire

NG2 7QP

#### **Contact**

Mrs Katie Greenhalgh

#### **Email**

[katie.greenhalgh@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:katie.greenhalgh@nottscc.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1159774761

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKF15 - North Nottinghamshire

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=49cc8317-d287-f011-813a-005056b64545&p=527b4bbd-5c58-e511-80ef-000c29c9ba21>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=49cc8317-d287-f011-813a-005056b64545&p=527b4bbd-5c58-e511-80ef-000c29c9ba21>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Regional or local authority

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Specialist Education Framework Phase 1 – Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools Round 4

Reference number

DN784701

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 80340000 - Special education services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Nottinghamshire County Council (the Council) is seeking to add further Independent non-maintained Special Schools (INMSS) to the INMSS Framework under which the Council are looking to commission INMSS and Post-16 (where the provision is delivered in house by the school) provision of specialist school placements for pupils who are not attending mainstream or maintained special schools and who have an Education Health Care (EHC) Plan.

This process is the reopening of the framework for new providers to bid to join the INMSS framework and is the fourth tender round. This tender round is only open to bid to join the INMSS Approved Provider List which is Lot 2 of the Framework Agreement. The Council are not re-opening Lot 1 Block Contract in this tender round. Any providers who were unsuccessful in the previous tender rounds (1, 2 and 3) for Lot 2 can reapply in this tender round (4).

**ANY PROVIDERS WHO HAVE ALREADY SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED IN PREVIOUS TENDER ROUNDS AND HAVE BEEN AWARDED A PLACE ON THE FRAMEWORK DO NOT NEED TO APPLY AGAIN IN THIS TENDER ROUND.**

To register your interest in this tender and to view the tender documents, the tender is

published on <https://www.eastmidstenders.org/>

Reference DN784701

The closing date for all tenders is the 7th of November 2025 at 5.00pm.

Please note that a standstill period of 10 days will commence from the notification of the contract award.

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for one lot only

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 1

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 2 Approved INMSS Provider List

Lot No

2

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKF15 - North Nottinghamshire
- UKF16 - South Nottinghamshire

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

The Council has a statutory duty to offer all children and young people a school place. The scope is to commission specialist education services with external providers (INMSS) where needs cannot be met, or it is not possible to offer places within a mainstream school or maintained special school.

Nottinghamshire County Council (the Council) is seeking to add further Independent non-

maintained Special Schools (INMSS) to the INMSS Framework under which the Council are looking to commission INMSS and Post-16 (where the provision is delivered in house by the school) provision of specialist school placements for pupils who are not attending mainstream or maintained special schools and who have an Education Health Care (EHC) Plan.

This process is the reopening of the framework for new providers to bid to join the INMSS framework and is the fourth tender round. This tender round is only open to bid to join the INMSS Approved Provider List which is Lot 2 of the Framework Agreement. The Council are not re-opening Lot 1 Block Contract in this tender round. Any providers who were unsuccessful in the previous tender rounds (1, 2 and 3) for Lot 2 can reapply in this tender round (4).

**ANY PROVIDERS WHO HAVE ALREADY SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED IN PREVIOUS TENDER ROUNDS AND HAVE BEEN AWARDED A PLACE ON THE FRAMEWORK DO NOT NEED TO APPLY AGAIN IN THIS TENDER ROUND.**

The establishment of a framework for INMSS is the first phase of the recommissioning of the Specialist Education provision for the Council as set out in the Vision document (Part 3 – Vision document).

Further phases of the recommissioning will include Alternative Education Provision and Post-16 institutions (e.g., further education colleges that are not part of the INMSS). New procurement processes will be run at later dates which are yet to be decided.

A Framework Agreement is an agreement between the contracting authority and one or more Service Providers, the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing contracts to be awarded during a given period.

This is a multi-provider framework.

There is no guarantee of work under this Framework.

Bidders should note that a further opportunity/opportunity for organisations to bid for inclusion on this framework may be advertised. No date/s have been set for any such process; however, further rounds for both lots 1 and 2 may periodically open again subject to demand. Any Bidder who is unsuccessful in this tender may bid again in any future tender for admission to the framework.

The Framework Agreement is commissioned under the Light Touch Regime 74 -77 Public Contracts Regulations 2015 using an open procedure and advertised in the Find a Tender Service Find high value contracts in the public sector - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

## **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £134,500,000

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

Duration in months

60

#### **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**

There is potential to extend this Framework Agreement for up to a further 6 years in increments of 24 months.

Please note that this is an indicative total value and the Council cannot guarantee the value

of business under the framework agreement as this is subject to demand for specialist school

places and the fees are also subject to an annual fee review

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## **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:

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement which is greater

than 4 years. The initial term of the framework agreement is for five years and will end on the 31st December 2029. There is the potential to extend the framework agreement for up to a further six years in increments of 24 months. This process is a competitive procurement conducted in accordance with the Light Touch Regime Regulations 74-77 of the Public Procurement Regulations 2015, the subject matter is Specialist Education for Children and Young People with special education needs who have an Education Health Care Plan, and the extended duration of the framework agreement is justified due to the type of service being sourced and the nature of the market. This is to ensure continuity in the provision of specialist education school places for the children and young people and to minimise disruption to the children and young people.

## **IV.2) Administrative information**

### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2024/S 000-040529](#)

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

Date

7 November 2025

Local time

5:00pm

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

English

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## **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.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

The Royal Courts of Justice

The Strand

London

Country

United Kingdom