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Planning

Essex Children's Homes Collaboration event

Essex County Council

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-057157

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04fead ([view related notices](#))

Published 17 September 2025, 8:49am

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Further amendment to the engagement section of the notice to align with the description section and mitigate any undue conflict with the date of this market engagement event. For the avoidance of any further doubt, please be advised that this event will take place on 25th September 2025.

Scope

Reference

F013PA

Description

Following the Essex Children's Homes collaboration events in May and July 2025 Essex County Council would like to invite you to a further event on the 25th September 2025, from 09:00-12:00 at The County Hotel, 29 Rainsford Rd, Chelmsford CM1 2PZ

The agenda will provide space to:

- Recap on the thinking so far
- Introduce a proposed new commissioning model
- Test the model with providers to understand its potential risks and benefits
- Test the appetite of providers to sign up to the model
- Set out proposed next steps, including anticipated timelines

We remain committed to codesigning the approach with providers who are open to:

- Providing same day emergency placements in Essex
- Providing homes that meet the high and complex levels of need in Essex
- Working alongside operations and placement teams in Essex to ensure long term placement planning and stability
- Open book accounting principles (by which we mean transparency of cost, price and value)
- Providing exclusive occupancy to local homes for Essex children
- Exploring how relational contracts could improve sufficiency in Essex

The focus of this event is strategic in nature. It is not about individual placements. Therefore, it is appropriate for Directors and Owners to attend. Due to space limitations, we can accommodate two people from each organisation. To reserve space for your organisation, please use the following link to access and fill out our booking form:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=TzK0qFwVFUKg8X7YzJqZLzvw6VkFTuNlnAaV1ee3RctUOUZHUFNEN1NYOVJLM1g3S0c2R01UNk5KMi4u&route=shorturl>

Please be advised that any information regarding the contract value and contract duration within this notice are provided for indicative purposes to fulfil the requirements of the online form. The Council reserves the right to review and amend this information and will publish the actual position within the tender.

In addition, please note that the response deadline within this notice relates to the deadline for expressing interest in attending this engagement event to facilitate the scheduling arrangements. The Council will publish details of any further market engagement notices regarding this project via separate notices in due course.

In addition, please be advised that in relation to the stated contracting authority within this notice, the contracting authority is Essex County Council and any Successor Body meaning one or more entities which assumes any of the Council's functions (as applicable) as a result of Local Government Reform (LGR). Such successor body or bodies may be, without limitation, a local authority, a combined authority, a combined county authority, a strategic authority or any other status determined pursuant to the Devolution and LGR Legislation.

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 June 2026 to 30 May 2029
- 2 years, 11 months, 30 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex

Engagement

Engagement deadline

19 September 2025

Engagement process description

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Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Contact name: Rachel Horne

Email: rachel.horne@essex.gov.uk

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government