

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/058049-2025>

Contract

Centre of Excellence - Sector Capability, Capacity and Skills

Department for Education

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-058049

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05287d ([view related notices](#))

Published 19 September 2025, 11:27am

Scope

Description

The Department for Education (the department) are looking for a provider to scope, test and begin delivering a support offer (Centre of Excellence) to help local authorities (LAs) improve their data and digital maturity with respect to children's social care (CSC) services.

The incoming government has prioritised 'Multi Agency Information Sharing' (MAIS) as a key focus in their manifesto. To help ready the sector for MAIS technical solutions and get the foundations of data and digital knowledge and confident leadership across all LAs in place, the department will provide a support offer to help LAs improve their data and digital maturity with respect to CSC services. This includes the sector's ability to secure, use and share data; and to deliver user-centred case management systems (CMS).

The department wants to understand what and how support could be offered for maximum impact, and to begin delivering the support offer. To deliver this work, it is recognised that the successful bidder will need to work closely with the department and those working in data and digital roles related to CSC in LAs.

The supplier will:

- work with the department and LAs to co-develop a vision and action plans for a data and digitally mature sector
- provide expertise on CSC data and digital, including hands-on support with specific LAs
- help LAs optimise how they customise and procure their digital CMS
- develop tools and resources that meet the needs of users
- plan research to provide a more detailed picture of CSC data quality, identifying where to focus improvements
- facilitate knowledge sharing, innovation, and collaboration between LAs, to share guidance, best practice and ideas - creating spaces where LAs can learn from each other both about what works and what does not, and how to utilise future technologies
- plan help with career and skills development to grow capability and capacity - training programmes and guidance that support continuous professional development, upskilling (including potentially around the use of AI), and those joining the profession; with shorter data/digital skills training/courses as well as longer ones (e.g. apprenticeships) to make building a data or digital career within LAs more achievable and attractive

A Prior Information Notice for this procurement was published in February 2025 under PCR15. The links to these notices can be found here:

<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/003474-2025>

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/fd848d6e-7db7-4312-9121-fb26dce7be2d>

Contract 1. Centre of Excellence - Sector Capability, Capacity and Skills

Supplier

- Social Finance Limited

Contract value

- £652,814 excluding VAT
- £783,377 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Date signed

18 September 2025

Contract dates

- 18 September 2025 to 30 June 2026
- Possible extension to 30 September 2026
- 1 year, 13 days

Description of possible extension:

1 optional extension period of three months to be included so the contract can run until September 2026 if there is scope for work to be continued.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80000000 - Education and training services

Key performance indicators

Name

1. Service Timeliness

2. Successful delivery of Deliverables in accordance with their corresponding Acceptance Criteria against the specified Milestone Dates

3. Quality of individuals provided to deliver outcomes agreed

4. Social Value KPI

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Supplier

Social Finance Limited

- Companies House: 06402143

87 Vauxhall Walk

London

SE11 5HJ

United Kingdom

Email: info@socialfinance.org.uk

Region: UKI45 - Lambeth

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Department for Education

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street

London

SW1P3BT

United Kingdom

Email: emilie.wilkinson@education.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government